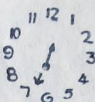


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Mr Fenn - News Dept

Falkland Islands: Secretary of State's Visit
to Washington

The Secretary of State is likely during his visit to Washington to have meetings on the Hill and to do a certain amount of press and television. I think that it might be helpful for him to have, in addition to his briefing for the official talks, a quarry of debating points which might be appropriate for such public use.

I attach by way of example some thoughts which have occurred to me. You and the other recipients of this minute may have comments and I hope also some points to contribute to the collection. You kindly agreed to act as collecting point.

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

21 April 1982

cc: PS
PS/Mr Onslow
PS/PUS
Mr Bullard
Sir I Sinclair
Mr Giffard
Mr Ure
Planning Staff
NAD
SAmD
UND
CCD
Emergency Unit ✓

FALKLAND ISLANDS: DEBATING POINTS FOR VISIT TO
WASHINGTON

Self Determination

[UN Dept/CCD
to fill in]

Please

.... members of the United Nations with a current population of were formerly parts of the British Empire. You had some difficulty in persuading us in 1776 of your right of self-determination. But we learnt our lesson ^{Subsequent stages of} and this massive exercise in self-determination took place peacefully. All we want for the Falkland Islanders is that they should have the same right to self-determination. If they wanted independence, we would certainly accept that. We would also accept it if they chose some form of closer integration with Argentina or incorporation into Argentina. But the fact remains that they have consistently opted to stay as they are; and if the principle of self-determination means anything, it must mean freedom of choice.

Decolonisation

The Argentines claim that the Falkland Islands should be 'decolonised'. Our record in the field of decolonisation is second to none. But I am always suspicious of countries who claim to decolonise by acquiring territory. We have all seen how the Soviet

/Union

Union brought 'independence' to the people of the Baltic States and elsewhere. The incorporation of the Falkland Islands into Argentina could only be called decolonisation if it were done in accordance with the wishes of the Islanders. *If it were so now, we would certainly not stand in the way.*

Territorial Integrity

This is one of the great defensive principles of international law, and our whole history shows our commitment to it. If it is used as it is intended to be used - as a shield - it is one of the fundamental pillars of the international rule of law. But beware of those who distort it and seek to use it as a sword. That way lies the Nazi invasion of the Sudetenland, the Anschluss into Austria; and the Soviet takeover of the Baltic States and eastern Poland.

British and Argentine Claims

The British claim rests on continued peaceful occupation since 1833. You may remember that at that time [could NAD please provide a line on where things then stood in respect of ^{the} lower California and parts of present Texas and New Mexico]. The Argentines argue against that, that we captured the Islands in 1833. It is true that they changed hands a number of times between when they were first discovered by
/and 1833.

and 1833. But it seems hardly appropriate for Argentina, whose claim is inherited from Spain to argue that conquest is a bar to title: on what could Spanish claims to Latin America be based if not on conquest?