

GR 1800

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 240150Z APR 82

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1434 OF 23 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, LATIN AMERICAN POSTS, CANBERRA,  
WELLINGTON, OTTAWA, ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN,  
LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, ROME, THE HAGUE AND UKREP BRUSSELS

FOLLOWING FOR NEWS DEPT.

FALKLANDS: SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. FOLLOWING IS EDITED TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW TAPED WITH CBS  
EVENING NEWS. INTERVIEW WAS BROADCAST IN CBS EDITED  
EVENING.

BEGINS

Q. LONG MEETINGS WITH HAIG: WHAT ACCOMPLISHED?

A. WE LOOKED VERY THOROUGHLY AND VERY CAREFULLY AT HIS LATEST  
PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT HE BROUGHT BACK FROM BUENOS  
AIRES. WE HAVE HAD THOUGHTS ABOUT IT AND COME OVER WITH  
SOME NEW IDEAS. ENTIRELY RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THEM THE  
VERY FULLEST AND MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

Q. WHAT REAL OBSTACLES TO PEACE?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT PERHAPS THE BIGGEST OF ALL IS THE SOVEREIGNTY  
QUESTION. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS OR  
DISCUSSIONS IS THE WAY IN WHICH THE LONG TERM SOLUTION SHALL BE  
FOUND FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONCEDE  
SOVEREIGNTY IN ADVANCE; WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED, SUBJECT  
TO THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS THEMSELVES, TO CONSIDER ANY  
OTHER ARRANGEMENT THAT THEY WISHED, BUT THE ARGENTINIANS ARE  
NOT PREPARED TO DO THAT, THEY CLAIM AND NOW THEY HAVE TAKEN  
THEM BY FORCE AND THAT IS INTERNATIONAL DISORDER AND BY ONE  
MEANS OR ANOTHER IT MUST BE PUT RIGHT.

Q. ARGENTINE SOURCES FORESEE ATTACK ON SOUTH GEORGIA.

A. WELL I HOPE STILL THAT THERE WILL BE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT;  
BUT ALWAYS IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE FACT THAT IF THIS MISSION  
FAILS, IF ALL OTHER MEANS OF TRYING TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLE-  
MENT FAIL DESPITE THE ECONOMIC MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN,  
DESPITE THE POLITICAL PRESSURES THAT HAVE BEEN APPLIED, IF ALL  
ELSE FAILS THEN AT THE END OF THE DAY, HOWEVER UNWELCOME, FORCE  
WOULD HAVE TO BE USED, BECAUSE IF WE DON'T PUT THIS RIGHT BY ONE  
MEANS OR ANOTHER THEN A LOT OF COUNTRIES ROUND THE WORLD WILL  
BE EVEN MORE FRIGHTENED THAN THEY ARE NOW. AND YOU SEE IN  
AFGHANISTAN FOR TWO YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN INVADED BY TENS OF  
THOUSANDS OF TROOPS, THEY HAVE NO SELF DETERMINATION, BUT WE  
CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT IT. NOR CAN WE DO MUCH ABOUT IT IN POLAND. /BUT

TOP COPY

120

FORM, THIS		ALG 50/304
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT HERE, AND THE UNITED NATIONS PASSED ITS RESOLUTION 502 REQUIRING ARGENTINA TO WITHDRAW AND IT'S MANDATORY, AND SHE HAS REFUSED TO WITHDRAW SO FAR, AND IF SHE WONT WITHDRAW BY PEACEFUL MEANS, THEN, HOWEVER UNHAPPY, AT THE END OF THE DAY WE HAVE TO FACE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ONLY MEANS WILL BE FORCE.

Q. ARGENTINE REACTIONS

A. THEY WERE SURPRISED BY THE WORLD REACTION AFTER THEIR INVASION. THEY THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A FUSS MAYBE, BUT NOT MUCH MORE. THEY WERE SURPRISED BY THE ECONOMIC MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THEM, AND THEY WERE SURPRISED BY THE SCALE AND THE SPEED WITH WHICH BRITAIN WAS PREPARED TO SEND AN ASSAULT FORCE, A CARRIER FORCE SUCH AN ENORMOUS DISTANCE, I THINK THAT TOOK THEM REALLY BY SURPRISE.

Q. WHO WILL SHOOT FIRST.

A. THE ARGENTINIANS STARTED IT, THEY INVADED THE ISLAND, REMEMBER. AND WE SENT ROUND IT AN EXCLUSIVE ZONE WHICH OF COURSE WE ARE CONTROLLING, WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN RESPECTED. THEY STARTED IT, SO DON'T ACCUSE US OF STARTING ANYTHING IF ANYTHING HAPPENS IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO OR THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. OF COURSE WE HOPE IT WON'T, BUT IT MIGHT.

Q. IN LAST ANALYSIS, WHERE WILL US SIDE?

A. WELL, WHEN THEIR MISSION IS OVER, THEY HAVE GOT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO. AND WE IN BRITAIN BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL WITHOUT DOUBT COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE. THEY HAVE NEVER SAID, I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED IT WITH AL HAIG, IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO DO SO, BECAUSE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS I HAVE DEFENDED TO PARLIAMENT THE POSITION THAT SO LONG AS MR HAIG IS DOING HIS VERY BEST TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IT CANNOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, BUT DURING MY VISIT HERE I AM BOUND TO SAY TO YOU THAT I HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED AND MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THE WARMTH OF THE SUPPORT THAT I HAVE FELT HAS BEEN COMING FROM THE UNITED STATES TO BRITAIN.

Q. USE OF FORCE?

A. WELL YOU CAN'T TELL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I AM TELLING YOU THAT IF ALL PEACEFUL METHODS FAIL THEN FORCE MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE TO BE USED, BUT IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AT ANY TIME; AND OF COURSE COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD IN CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THIS HAVE TO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE THE FINAL DECISION.

Q. UK PUBLIC OPINION, IF FIGHTING ENSUES.

/A.



A. THE FEELING IN BRITAIN IS VERY UNITED. MRS THATCHER AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE A VERY GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT. THE BRITISH PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR HISTORY UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLE AT STAKE VERY WELL AND I DON'T KNOW THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SO UNITED. IT IS TRUE OF COURSE, IF FIGHTING BREAKS OUT, THEN SOME PEOPLE WILL BE UNHAPPY, THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT THERE IS A VERY GREAT MEASURE OF SUPPORT. AND THERE WILL BE A VERY GREAT DEAL OF DISMAY, AND WORSE THAN DISMAY, IF THIS WRONG, IF THIS AGGRESSIVE ACT, THIS UNLAWFUL INVASION OF A SMALL ISLAND BY A LARGE COUNTRY WAS NOT PUT RIGHT.

Q. WHY NOT GO TO THE UN?

A. WE HAVE BEEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WE HAVE GOT RESOLUTION 502 ..... ARGENTINA IS IN BREACH OF IT NOW. WE HAVE TAKEN THAT STEP AND WE HAVE GOT THAT SUPPORT, WE HAVE GOT A RESOLUTION WHICH IS MANDATORY, WHICH IS BEING DISOBEYED. WHAT ARE THE UNITED NATIONS GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT? IT IS NOT JUST A BRITISH PROBLEM, YOU KNOW, IT IS A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. EVERY FREE COUNTRY THAT IS. EVERY COUNTRY THAT BELIEVES IN DEMOCRACY, PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT. IF THIS ISN'T PUT RIGHT, THINK OF THE COUNTRIES ROUND THE WORLD THAT MIGHT FEEL THREATENED THEMSELVES. THAT'S WHY THE ISSUE IS AN INTERNATIONAL ONE. WE ARE IN THE FRONT LINE, WE HAVE GOT TO TAKE THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY. WE HAVE DESPATCHED A FLEET AND FORCES AT AN ENORMOUS RANGE IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION BUT EVERYBODY ELSE HAS AN INTEREST IN IT. YOUR QUESTION IMPLIES, GO TO THE UNITED NATIONS RIGHT AWAY; AND THAT IS WHAT WE DID.

Q. ARE YOU HOPING FOR THE BEST?

A. WHAT I AM DOING IS PREPARING FOR THE WORST AND HOPING WE CAN GET A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

Q. ARE YOU PLAYING FOR TIME?

A. NOT IN THE LEAST. WE CAN'T GET A SETTLEMENT TOO SOON. I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT MR HAIG'S MISSION IS THE MOST HOPEFUL WAY; I THINK THAT IF HE WAS ABLE TO BRING IT OFF THAT WOULD BE THE BEST SOLUTION. AND I HONESTLY THINK THAT. BUT I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO SAY THAT IS SO FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO PREPARE FOR WHAT MIGHT BE A VERY UNWELCOME SITUATION; BUT OF COURSE WE HAVE GOT TO BE READY FOR IT.

Q. TIME LIMIT FOR HAIG?

A. WELL ITS THE HAIG MISSION, IT IS FOR HIM TO DECIDE. THERE IS MOST CERTAINLY LIFE IN IT AND THERE IS HOPE IN IT; I THINK THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES, IT IS CONCEIVABLE AT THE END OF THE DAY THAT IT WON'T WORK, BUT SO LONG AS THERE IS LIFE IN IT THEN WE GO ON WITH IT.

Q. ODDS OF 5-1 AGAINST WAR?

A. I AM NOT A BETTING MAN.

Q. SOVIET UNION ONLY BENEFICIARY?

A. WELL I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT. THE SOVIETS OF COURSE ARE NO DOUBT MEDDLING IN THESE TROUBLED WATERS. I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY GAINERS OUT OF THIS, I HAVE TO TELL YOU BUT I CAN SEE A LOT OF LOSERS, A LOT OF LOSERS. YOUR COUNTRY, MY COUNTRY, LOTS OF SMALL COUNTRIES, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY ITSELF. THEY COULD ALL BE THE LOSERS, SO LETS REMEMBER THAT. BETWEEN US ALL LETS PUT THIS WRONG RIGHT.

Q. OAS?

A. THERE IS AN ORGANISATION OF STATES THERE, THERE IS AN INTEREST IN CREATING MORE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA, BUT ALL THOSE ARRANGEMENTS ARE OF COURSE SUBJECT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD COME DOWN AGAINST ARGENTINE. AS A MATTER OF FACT THEY HAVE, IN SO FAR AS FORCE HAS BEEN USED, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THEIR METHODS. THEY MAY HAVE A FEELING OF SYMPATHY WITH THEIR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND THEY ARE QUITE ENTITLED TO HAVE THAT, BUT WHAT THEY DON'T LIKE ANYMORE THAT WE LIKE IS THE USE OF FORCE.

Q. US "NEUTRALITY" RESENTED?

A. I THINK I WOULD SAY IN BRITAIN THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO SAY ISN'T IT RATHER SAD, WE THOUGHT PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD BE ON BRITAIN'S SIDE. I HAVE EXPLAINED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WHILE MR. HAIG AND THE ADMINISTRATION ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE BY PEACEFUL MEANS THEN OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT RIGHT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD COME DOWN ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THEN THEY WOULD HAVE NO CREDENTIALS WITH WHICH TO NEGOTIATE, SO THAT IS THE POSITION AT THE MOMENT.

Q. TODAY'S TALKS WITH HAIG?

A. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD - AND WE HAVE YESTERDAY AND TODAY - AT THE PROPOSALS HE BROUGHT BACK FROM BUENOS AIRES AND HIS IDEAS ON THOSE PROPOSALS. AT THE BRITISH REACTIONS TO THOSE PROPOSALS AND ONE OR TWO NEW IDEAS THAT WE HAVE PRODUCED; AND IT IS ENTERELY RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD LOOK AT THEM VERY THOROUGHLY. I AM GOING TO SEE MR. HAIG AGAIN, NOT FOR A LENGTHY SESSION BUT FOR A SHORT TIME, AND THEN I AM GOING BACK HOME TONIGHT. I THINK THAT WHAT I HAVE DONE IS NOT ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN HOLD UP AS A PARTICULAR ACHIEVEMENT; BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT I THINK WE HAVE ADVANCED IN THE PROCESS OF FINDING, THROUGH THESE EFFORTS,



THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WHEN HE GOES AND TALKS TO THE ARGENTINIANS AGAIN WILL THEN THAT MAY PRODUCE ANOTHER FACTOR, BUT THAT IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING.

ENDS.

2 PLEASE ONPASS TO COI NEWS DESK BY 240900Z.

HENDERSON

LIMITED  
SAM D  
DEF D  
NEWS D  
PS  
PS|MR HURD  
PS|MR ONSLOW  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR URE  
CABINET OFFICE