

SECRET



Secretary of State

130

*J L Bullard*

*Tranby*

*for Hales 26/4*

*Star*  
*S.A.M.O.*  
*for entry*  
*26/4*

Private Secretary

ODSA MEETING, 24 APRIL: TALKS WITH HAIG

1. I attach some suggested points to make for this afternoon's meeting of ODSA. I have used the notes made before the Secretary of State's talk with the Prime Minister this morning, plus one or two other thoughts.

*J Bullard*

J L Bullard

24 April 1982

cc: PS/PUS  
Mr Giffard  
Sir I Sinclair  
Mr Ure  
Mr Mallaby  
Emergency Unit

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INDEX	PA	Action Taken

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ODSA MEETING 24 APRIL: FALKLAND ISLANDS:  
TALKS WITH MR HAIG

Points to Make

1. My memorandum of this morning, with the American draft at Annex A and the detailed commentary on it by the Legal Adviser at the FCO at Annex C.
2. I recommend very strongly that the American plan and draft be accepted, subject to the changes in the draft set out in para 8 of my memorandum.
3. Three main reasons:-
  - (i) the only plan which in the brief time still available (three to four days?) offers a chance of
    - averting hostilities
    - getting Argentinians off the Island
    - setting in motion a process which would lead to an eventual solution of the Falklands problem.
  - (ii) unique opportunity to engage the United States.

If Argentina rejects Haig's proposals, United States will drop even-handed stance and join in putting pressure on them. If they accept, we shall have an American presence on the Islands and an American role in the negotiations. But to achieve this we have to accept the proposals ourselves.



(iii) what is alternative? No ready-made political plan, nor any chance of constructing one in time.

Military option open to us, but results by that road are not likely to be quick or easy or cheap. Prospect of prolonged period of hostilities while international support for Britain melts away (in Security Council we shall be vetoing resolutions). Final victory in no doubt, but leaving us with task of finding political solution and maintaining defence commitment in vastly more difficult circumstances than before.

4. Recognise weaknesses of American draft. Spent much of last two days pointing them out to Haig, who accepted some corrections. Changes still needed in paras 6 and 7. But I accept Haig's point that, to be effective, proposals must be seen to go to the limit of the possible in taking account of Argentine case, however disreputable in international law. Proposals in fact would stretch but not do violence to basic principles endorsed by Parliament. Read text and commentary carefully. There will be criticism in Parliament and public opinion, parts of which are living in a dream world. Ready as Foreign Secretary to take my share of confronting these criticisms. Shall defend the plan as I have recommended it to colleagues today.