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RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR DEFENCE AND THE US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
IN THE US MISSION NATO BRUSSELS AT 0800 a.m ON
THURSDAY 6th MAY 1982

Present:

The Rt Hon John Nott MP
Secretary of State for Defence

HE Sir John Graham
UK Permanent Representative
to NATO

Mr R Hastie-Smith
DUS(P)

Mr D B Omand
PS/S of S

The Honorable Caspar Weinberger
Secretary of Defense

The Hon W Tapley Bennett Jr
US Permanent Representative
to NATO

The Hon Richard W Perle
Assistant Secretary for
International Security Policy

Brigadier General John R Lasater
USAF
DASD/ISP

Major General R Smith USAF
Military Assistant

Item 1 - Falkland Islands Operation - US Assistance

Mr Weinberger referred to the discussions which had taken place between Admiral Lewin and General Jones on the previous evening about the detailed list of items for which the UK would be grateful for US assistance. He stressed his desire that this assistance should be made available as rapidly as possible with a minimum of bureaucratic formalities, and he suggested that the most convenient arrangement would be for items on the list to be stored in the UK with only those items drawn from the store being paid for. The Secretary of State thanked Mr Weinberger for the assistance which the UK had already received from the US Department of Defense and confirmed that these arrangements would be generally satisfactory.

Item 2 - Falkland Islands Diplomatic Movements

The Secretary of State described to Mr Weinberger the latest diplomatic proposals which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had passed to Mr Haig for onward transmission to Peru. Mr Weinberger said that it seemed unlikely that much help would be forthcoming from the United Nations organisation who certainly would do nothing to implement Resolution 502: indeed there was a risk that they might water it down. The Secretary of State stressed the dangers of any ceasefire agreement which was not firmly linked to an Argentinian withdrawal from the islands.



Item 3 - Trident

Mr Weinberger referred to the arrangements being made for the briefing of UK industrialists on the opportunities for ^{contributing to} Trident missile system components. The Secretary of State thanked Mr Weinberger for the assistance which he and his staff had given in setting up the briefing which he felt would be extremely useful. He said that as far as he was aware the arrangements for the Trident programme as a whole were going ahead smoothly.

Item 4 - NATO and Out-of-Area Deployments

Mr Weinberger informed the Secretary of State of the line he would be taking at the DPC meeting later in the morning on the subject of out-of-area operations. He saw the Falkland Islands crisis as an illustration of the need for NATO countries to be aware of the way in which events outside the NATO area could affect Western interests. It raised the question of other allies providing assistance to meet the gaps in force levels caused by the temporary out-of-area deployments and said that the United States was looking for such backfilling arrangements with her allies for the RDF against contingencies in South West Asia. He added that NATO itself should plan for such contingencies given the importance of Middle East oil to the European economies. Sir John Graham issued a word of caution about the way in which these ideas were presented to the other European allies since if the argument was used that "it was in their interests" for the US to act in this way then they would wish to be fully consulted about the objectives of the exercise. The Secretary of State commented that there had been some scepticism expressed to him by some Ministers who attended the Eurogroup Dinner the previous evening that the US would not be able to handle the logistic problems of the RDF. Mr Weinberger accepted that with the equipment now in service it would be difficult to move 3 Divisions but he had requests before Congress in his budget proposals for significant enhancements of airlift and fast sea transport. At present Diego Garcia was their only staging point although they had the offer of facilities at Ras Banas.

Item 5 - NATO Summit

Mr Weinberger explained that he was pressing for a more detailed defence statement to be issued after the Summit but he was running into opposition from the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada. If their view was accepted then the defence content would be diluted. The Secretary of State accepted that Defence Ministers were now unlikely to be able to attend but agreed that there should be a clear defence statement. The Secretary of State said that as he understood the US ideas they were not inconsistent with the more substantive proposals which the UK had put forward for a defence initiative at the Summit. He thought therefore that the UK should be able to give support to the US in finding suitable language for the Summit statement. Mr Weinberger (who



may have thought that the Secretary of State was referring to the several-point US plan involving full endorsement of NATO force goals) said that he welcomed this UK support.

The meeting ended at 0830am.

409

Ministry of Defence

7th May 1982

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