



Mr Mallaby
Planning Staff

ALQ 050/11 c.c.

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FALKLANDS : KEEPING THE POLITICAL PROCESS ALIVE

1. I offer the following input to our reflections on where to go from here:-

- (a) The UK is becoming increasingly isolated internationally, because we are not perceived to be serious about a negotiated solution to the Falklands crisis.
- (b) It is said, e.g. by the French privately and by the informed press (FT etc) publicly, that we lack an overall strategy.
- (c) By coming down unambiguously on our side, the United States has ruled itself out as interlocuteur valable in Buenos Aires, however good the ideas which Haig may purvey.
- (d) Haig has his own political reasons for wishing to retain an intermediary role. But from our point of view his interest in this conflicts with (c) above.
- (e) The best way for HMG to recapture public support would be to take a direct diplomatic initiative of our own.
- (f) We should go to the Security Council and tell them that the Secretary of State would be willing to fly to Lima at the earliest possible moment, to discuss direct with Mr Costa Mendez, under Peruvian chairmanship, the British requirements for implementing all three points in UNSC 502.
- (g) This would:
 - (i) Stop undesirable alternatives at the UN.
 - (ii) Regenerate public support.
 - (iii) Cost us nothing.

P J Weston

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