

RESTRICTED

14

Copies: *Murphyham*  
*Mr Butler*

(95)  
1100 ~~sent~~  
SAPU

Mr Ure  
c.c. PS  
PS/Mr Onslow  
PS/PUS  
Mr Giffard  
Emergency Unit  
SAmD  
NAD  
Information Dept.

AKQ 050/30413

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	FA	Action Taken

*NJ*

*M RAJ 11/5.*

GENERAL WALTERS

AKQ 050/30413  
(35)

1. I am not sure where we now stand over President Reagan's unacceptable message to Latin American Heads of State.

2. You should now be aware of the attached Reuters report of remarks by General Walters, in which he is quoted as saying, inter alia:

'After all, this is an absolutely pointless war, its a silly war.'

'The Falkland Islands crisis is a conflict of two machismos, and the machismo of women is even more sensitive than the machismo of men.'

'Both parties are very sticky'.

3. With friends like these . . .

4. I hope we shall come down very heavily on the Americans about this.

*N M Fenn*

11 May 1982

N M Fenn  
News Department

NNNN

UKP186 EPA028

110024 :FALKLANDS-WALTERS:

WASHINGTON, MAY 18, REUTER -- A HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL TODAY CALLED THE FALKLANDS CRISIS A SILLY WAR AND A CONFLICT OF EGOS, SAYING BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER HAD AN EGO EVEN MORE SENSITIVE THAN ARGENTINE PRESIDENT LEOPOLDO GALTIERI.

VERNON WALTERS, SPECIAL ENVOY ON LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS TO SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG, WAS SPEAKING SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD AGAIN BRANDED ARGENTINA AS THE AGGRESSOR IN THE CONFLICT.

MR WALTERS, A RETIRED GENERAL AND FORMER CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TOLD A BRIEFING AT THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WAS A CONFLICT OF TWO MACHISMS.

ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WAS NOT ATTRIBUTING BLAME, HE ADDED IN AN OBDIQUE REFERENCE TO MRS THATCHER: AND THE MACHISMO OF WOMEN IS EVEN MORE SENSITIVE THAN THE MACHISMO OF MEN.

HE ALSO SAID THERE WERE TWO TOUGH ISSUES -- ARGENTINA'S DEMAND FOR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS AND BRITISH INSISTENCE THAT THE WISHES OF THE 1,800 FALKLANDERS SHOULD BE PARAMOUNT.

A DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT WAS NOT TERRIBLY FAR AWAY, HE ADDED, AND BOTH PARTIES ARE VERY STICKY ON THESE POINTS.

WRE AJ/PFS/JKF

UKP187

CK 110027 NNNN

UKP188 EPA029

110027 :FALKLANDS-WALTERS 2 WASHINGTON:

MR WALTERS SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THERE WOULD BE A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION BECAUSE AFTER ALL THIS IS AN ABSOLUTELY POINTLESS WAR, IT'S A SILLY WAR.

BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA HAD MORE IN COMMON THAN DIVIDED THEM AND THEIR CONFLICT POSED AN EXCRUCIATING PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES SINCE BOTH WERE FRIENDS AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF VITAL EUROPEAN AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE ORGANISATIONS, HE SAID.

HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE ADMINISTRATION MISCALCULATED OR FAILED TO CONSIDER DAMAGE TO U.S. HEMISPHERIC TIES IN DECIDING TO BACK BRITAIN 10 DAYS AGO.

BUT IT WAS A DIFFICULT MATTER TO WEIGH OFF THE IMPACT IN EUROPE OF ABANDONING A NATO ALLY AGAINST THE DANGER OF ALIENATING LATIN AMERICANS, MOST OF WHOM SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S CLAIMS TO THE FALKLANDS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HOPED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WOULD AVOID THE NECESSITY OF MAKING SUCH A CHOICE.

REUTER AJ/PFS/JKF