

See Distribution

HOT REPORT ON TWC MEETING IN CABINET OFFICE 100 HRS 5 APR 82

MAIN POINTS

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| ARMY ROOM | |
| 101/A | 27 |
| Reg 57 No: MISC 198 | |

ITEM 1. Civilian Aspects of the Situation.

1. Arms Embargo on Argentine Contracts. MOD to compile a list of cases for embargo. Known contracts between the Argentine and countries friendly to UK. FCO would then action.

2.

CLOSED FOR 40 YEARS UNDER
FOI SECTION 27

3. Legal position UK/Argentine. For various reasons the FCO stated that it probably suited us better not to declare war. Many conflicts occurred between nations without declaration of war. Article 51, with right to self defence and defence of own lands, was probably quite sufficient at this time.

4. Shipping.

a. DOT confirmed that there were no Argentine ships in our waters.

b. There were three British Merchant ships in Argentinian ports either chartered by Argentinians or crewed by them.

5. Aviation. Civil flights between the two countries had been suspended by both sides.

6. Military equipment contracts with the UK. Already banned.

7. British going to the Argentine, businessmen etc. FCO would take steps to provide some means of advising people not to go.

8. Evacuation of British Subjects from the Argentine. Committee endorsed the present FCO line where the Ambassador was advising people to make their own way out of the Argentine now. BBC announcements would continue to be made. It was a nice point as to how much overt advice could be given in order not to induce adverse reaction from the Argentinians. It was recognised that evacuation would become more difficult the nearer the fleet got to the South Atlantic. There was concern for the BAS personnel still in South Georgia. Head of BAS had declined to let BRANSFIELD from collecting people since she had valuable equipment on board. There was discussion about equipment before lives - FCO undertook to see if any other friendly ships in the area would help.

9. Argentinians in this Country. There could be as many as 10,000 Argentinians in Britain at the moment (6000 living here, the rest visitors). Discussion centered upon internment or deportation. Internment meant camps and guards. Home Office will consider further and consult MOD on internment. DOE offered to help with camps.

10. Key Points. Home Office had already asked the Security Service for an assessment of the threat from Argentinians in this country.

Once the assessment had been completed Home Office would discuss with MOD.

11. Food from the Argentine to UK. Meat was the only commodity worth considering - and as we only imported some 5% of our meat from Argentina it would be easy to find alternative sources (MAFF) However it should be noted that this represents up to 50% of Argentinian meat exports.

12. UK Citizens in the Falklands. There are some 75 citizens from the UK currently in the Falklands. There was one man who was an airfield technician who had just returned from the Falkland Islands. Department of Trade have his name should DIS be interested.

13. Cultural Visits. FCO would investigate what was going on, including sporting events/teams, and would discourage them.

14. ROE. The Committee noted DUS(P)'s point giving notice that these would need to be cleared by Ministers very soon.

ITEM 2. Whitehall machinery for Managing the Crisis.

15. The TWC would be prepared to meet on a more or less continuous basis. But the Chairman considered that in the situation as it was that meetings of the full TWC were unnecessary. He wanted future meetings to be slimmed down to the major Ministries (FCO, MOD, Home Office, DOT, MOT), although all would get minutes. As such the term TWC may be inappropriate - this would be considered by the Secretary.

16. Meetings would not yet need to take place in COBR. It was recognised that meetings would be held over Easter.

17. The Cabinet Office would now move onto 24 hr basis - contact numbers to find duty personnel would be:

1233 - 8285 or 1233 - 7269

Other Ministries were asked to look at 24 hr manning too.

18. War Measures Books. These would not be taken into use at the moment, although they were recognised as useful check lists.

Next Meeting

19. A meeting of the slimmed down committee would be held at 1600 hrs today to take an FCO paper concerning, it seemed, sanctions and their political implications.

P. [Signature]
A G H HARLEY
Colonel
D of D Ops (UK)
MB 5179 7104 MB

4 Apr 82

Distribution over/: