

Mr Fearn

*Be aware that a copy of this is seen immediately by Mr Giffard for briefing Mr. North for Parliament today. But I would be wary of drawing on this in Parliament until it is finally confirmed.* (330)

FALKLAND ISLANDS: EC MEASURES

1. Mr Cooper telephoned from Brussels at 12.15 local today, to say that the Foreign Ministers of the Ten meeting in Political Cooperation had agreed in principle to extend the Community's measures against Argentina for an indefinite period on the same basis as was agreed in Luxembourg a week ago. It was agreed that the measures would continue until the situation in the South Atlantic had changed in such a way that the measures were no longer necessary.

2. Two minor procedural hoops have still to be gone through before the decision can be regarded as final. Coreper is to meet later today to look at a Commission proposal ~~on how~~ to put the Ministers' decision into effect; and the Commission proposal then agreed on is to be taken at a formal Council of Ministers meeting either this afternoon or tomorrow as an A'Point. But UKREP are confident that the measures will be extended as agreed, and that we can take the line in Parliament today that 'we understand that the Foreign Ministers of the European Community have agreed in principle to extend the Community's measures against Argentina without any time limit on the same basis as was agreed in Luxembourg last week'.

3. Mr Cooper added that only two significant points had been raised in discussion:

a) whether the measures should be extended for one month, or indefinitely - the French and Danes suggested an indefinite extension, apparently because they believed that it would be possible to lift the measures in less than a month, and other Ministers readily fell in with this suggestion;

b) whether a formal statement should be made after the meeting - it was agreed that the Presidency would have to say something publicly after the meeting, and that a statement would reiterate the Community's support for Resolution 502, and say that the Community's measures against Argentina were being extended on the same basis agreed at Luxembourg last week (the statement will say nothing about any time limit).

*[Handwritten signature]*

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A M Layden  
Emergency Unit

24 May 1982

- cc: Parliamentary Unit ✓
- ECD(E) ✓
- Mr Giffard ✓
- PS/PUS ✓
- PS/Mr Onslow ✓
- PS/Lord Belstead ✓
- PS ✓
- Lord Bridges ✓