



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. Whitmore

WJ
2W

For Information Only

Remove Mr. Herby's
the P.M. 2d
broadcast to the
Nation.

Here is his 1st
draft. I have
not put it to
P.M. rough copy
has a copy.

EJ.

2/5.

FIRST DRAFT OF AN ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON TELEVISION
BY THE PRIME MINISTER

As I expect you will have heard, the Commander of the British Task Force in the South Atlantic, Rear-Admiral Woodward, with the full authority of the British Government and supported by an overwhelming majority of the Members of the House of Commons, today moved to liberate the Falkland Islands from the invader, to take back by force what was taken from us by force on the 2nd of April by the military dictatorship of Argentina.

We come to this action, not in any spirit of vainglory or false pride, but with the greatest possible reluctance. This is no roar of defiance from the British people or their democratically elected Government.

We are only too familiar with the reality of war. We know its hazards and its dangers. We know the formidable task that faces our fighting men.

But we know this too. That when those things for which our country has stood and, when necessary, fought down the centuries are once more threatened by a regime with a notorious record in the field of human rights; when what has been British territory for almost 150 years is seized and occupied by that regime; and when not only British land but British citizens are in the power of an aggressor, then we know what we must do. We will try in every possible way to keep the casualties on either side to the absolute minimum, but what must be done we will ~~do~~ *be done*.

We no longer have any alternative.

For seven weeks we have sought a peaceful solution by diplomatic means; through our Ambassadors; through the good offices of our close friend and ally, the United States; through the unremitting efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

We have studied seven sets of proposals. Without compromising our legal or constitutional ^{position} ~~tradition~~ we have made a variety of suggestions and tactical changes in the effort to avoid ^a conflict, [^] ~~and loss of life~~. We have worked tirelessly for a peaceful solution. But when there is no response of substance from the other side, there comes a point when it is no longer possible to trust the good faith of those with whom one is negotiating.

Playing for time is not working for a peaceful solution. Wasting time is not willing a peaceful solution. It would be a betrayal of our fighting men if we continued merely to talk when talk without action has led nowhere.

There have been one or two questioning voices raised here at home in recent weeks that I would like to answer. It has been suggested that the size of the Falkland Islands and the comparatively small number of its inhabitants - some 1800 men, women and children - should somehow affect our reaction to what has happened to them.

To those - not many - who speak lightly of a handful of Islanders beyond the seas ~~and~~ who have ~~even~~ asked the question: "are they worth fighting for?" let me say this: right and wrong are not

measured by a head-count of those to whom that wrong has been done. That is not principle, that is expediency.

And the Falklanders, remember, are not strangers. They are our own people. As the Prime Minister of New Zealand put it ~~in~~ :
~~The Times~~: "With the Falkland Islands, it is family."

When their land was invaded and their homes ^{were} overrun, they naturally turned to us for help and we, their fellow citizens, 8,000 miles away in our much larger islands, could not and did not beg to be excused.

We sent our men and our ships with all speed, hoping against hope that we would not have to use them in battle but prepared to do so if all attempts at a peaceful solution failed. Now that those attempts have failed, we cannot sail by on the other side.

And let me add this. If we, the British, were to shrug our shoulders at what has happened in the South Atlantic and acquiesce in the illegal seizure of those far-away islands, it would be ^{clear} a signal to those with similar designs on the territory of others to follow in the footsteps of aggression.

Surely we, of all people, have learnt the lesson of history: that appeasement of an aggressor is to invite aggression elsewhere, and on an ever-increasing scale.

Other voices - again only a few - have accused us of clinging to colonialism or even imperialism. Let me remind ^{those who advance that argument} them that the
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British have a record of leading former colony after former colony to freedom and independence that is second to none. We cling, not to colonialism, but to the right.

We have no quarrel with the ordinary people of Argentina. For them we feel nothing but friendship and goodwill. But the attack launched in their name by their present leaders against our people in the Falkland Islands cannot and will not be allowed to go unchallenged.

Let us, then, draw together in the name not of jingoism but of justice. For our cause is just. It is the cause of democratic freedom, and the rule of law. It is the cause of support for the weak and innocent against aggression by the strong.

And let our nation, as it has so often in the past, remind itself and the world, calmly, quietly and without heroics, "this above all, to thine own self be true".

(RM)