

## 10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST FOR SATURDAY, May 29, 1982

**Treatment:** Most front pages share the Pope with our success in retaking Port Darwin and Goose Green

**D/Star:** Marines killed as fierce battle rages on the island; Queen and Pope united in hope

**Sun:** Victory; paras rout Argies to seize Darwin and Goose Green; Pilgrimage of joy for John Paul.

**Mirror:** We're winning; paras take Darwin and Goose Green; our losses are light; God bless your son, Pope tells Queen

**Express:** War and Peace; Pope's plea - "I ask you to join me in praying that the God of Peace will move men's hearts to put aside the weapons of death!" We capture Port Darwin

**Mail:** Battle for Port Stanley is on; paras take Goose Green; Pope's blessing for Andrew at Palace.

**Telegraph:** Goose Green recaptured; British casualties light; prisoners taken; peace pleas launch Pope's historic visit

**Guardian:** Light British casualties as prisoners are taken - Goose Green and Darwin captured by paratroops; Reagan calls for fresh Falkland talks; Pope arrives with prayers for peace

**Times:** Pre-occupied Pope urges peace and reconciliation; Goose Green and Darwin taken by helicopters

**FT:** Darwin and Goose Green retaken; Pope tells Britain: Pray for peace

**Comment:** **D/Star:** referring to Pope's call to people to join him in praying for a just and peaceful settlement, says a just peace has been Britain's aim. World knows Argentina fired first bullet and blame is with them.

**Express:** 20 Devonport dockyard men were asked to go to South Atlantic - 200 responded. There are those who pooh-pooh the least protestation of patriotism; there is a soft-centred, elitist establishment; people at large are made of sterner and stronger stuff. It is a good thing to be British now that we are standing up for ourselves for a change instead of being trampled upon as appeasers would have us be.

**Mail** hopes that when present operations are complete, and land restored to rightful owners, Pope will exert his influence to bring the conflict to a just and peaceful solution; in another leader it says what Benn doesn't realise is that the more he listens to his militants the more he alienates ordinary people.

**Telegraph:** For the Pope to have done any other than speak of peace and reconciliation would have exposed him to charge he was dealer in pious platitudes. Who in Britain will not join him in his prayer for a just and peaceful solution? Yet pretentious BBC commentators gratuitously interpreted his words as criticism of you.

**Times** says pastoral is not a synonym for non-political and Pope is last man to accept that politics or any other sphere of life is excluded from the domain of religion; wrong to have expected him to come here without referring to subject which is a source of pastoral need for Both British and Argentinian peoples. If he had not referred to it he would have appeared remarkably insensitive and insincere

Military: 5 soldiers killed when Argentines strafe Bridgehead; Uganda picks up wounded close to shore....followed by our first victory on land after 48 hours of silence

- SAS using souped up motor-bikes on raids
- Express says nervous Argentines are loosing off indiscriminately and have narrowly missed a 70 year-old woman in Stanley
- Argentine beef being loaded in Britain to feed the troops
- Total number of Argentine aircraft now destroyed 66; British losses 15
- Vera Lynn records a song for the Task Force

Arms Trade: More Exocet missiles believed to be on their way to the Argentine -on train which left Le Havre for La Spezia where they will be loaded into an Argentine ship

- 2 Libyan boats arrived in the Argentine last week believed to be carrying Exocet
- Mail says 3 British firms are supplying Exocet parts under £70m deal with France
- Ecuador aircraft holding arms from Israel still held in New York
- French Minister Jobert says he has not discussed selling Exocet during his visit to South East Asia

Industry: John Elliott, FT, writes a big piece about the speed, efficiency and ingenuity with which supplies for the Task Force are being achieved - "a job that would have taken a year!"

Diplomatic Foot urges you to keep an open door for the UN; accuses you of demanding unconditional surrender which Owen says could be very costly in terms of lives

- Peter Jenkins, in Guardian, says US has abandoned hope of intervening in the conflict and preventing a British victory; Reagan has ordered that you should be left to finish the job; the e is said to be no stopping you but US hopes that you will refrain from returning the Governor
- Reagan softens speech which contains pro-Latin remarks
- OAS felt likely to stop short of economic or diplomatic sanctions
- Bonn sends envoy to Latin America to explain its position
- Argentines said to be in favour of an Anglo-US naval base in Falklands once conflict is over
- We get in the way of \$20m UN aid to Argentina and in so doing hold up agreement on millions of dollar loans to Latin America
- Guardian says UBSR is moving towards recognition of Argentine sovereignty over Falklands

In Falklands: Governor says he has packed his bags and is waiting for you to give the green light for him to return

- FCO denies Eric Ogden's charge that shredding machines are working overtime destroying embarrassing papers; also deny Governor has been gagged
- First Falklander to renounce British nationality gets his Argentine papers at a ceremony attended by top brass

In the UK

- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says Reagan on his visit here will be addressing Parliamentarians who will feel less beholden to him and the USA than would have been the case 2 months ago; then his speech seemed an opportunity for injecting fresh confidence into the Alliance; now he has to recover lost ground

Media: Many pictures of the last hours of the Sheffield

- Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, criticising coverage of Falklands crisis, says we have given the enemy far too much information
- Criticism of Christopher Wain, BBC, for speculating that lack of information over 48 hours could mean things were not going well
- Press reports some irritation in MoD itself over paucity of information being given by Northwood.



## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

Page 3

### OTHER NEWS

**UNIONS/PAY** - BR facing another strike after offering 5% from September 6 - thus effectively 3.08% - on condition that productivity deal is implemented, including flexible rostering which it intends to impose; unions say offer is derisory and insulting  
-COMSE pressing for full support from unions not directly involved in NHS 12% pay dispute  
- Power workers withdraw strike threat after settlement at ACAB  
-Scargill threatens industrial action in coalfields if Snowdown, Kent, is closed for development  
-Agreement reached in dustbin dispute at Wandsworth, but council will still put work out to tender but allow existing dustmen to tender for it

**ECONOMY:** White House describes Budget defeat in Congress as great misfortune for country; Guardian says leaders of industrialised world will have every excuse at Versailles Summit of roasting Reagan if he does not call in chairman of the Fed and tell him to relax monetary targets

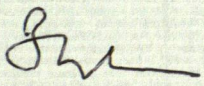
**INDUSTRY:** BNOC proposes to raise oil price from \$31 to \$33.50; BP and Shell don't think rise justified; FT says motorists could face 10p on petrol as a result  
-De Lorean does not give up easily: now looking for British backers

**POLITICS:** Foot summons shadow Cabinet to crisis meeting after Beaconsfield; puts blame on Benn  
-Terence Lancaster, Mirror, says you may be tempted to go for an early election after the humiliation of the Labour at Beaconsfield  
-Guardian leader says that after Beaconsfield and Falklands there is still everything to play for politically  
-Times says resurgence of Tories helps to clarify the point that Social Democrats will have to win Labour votes if they are to become a durable political force  
-Malcolm Rutherford, FT, says only one statistic matters in connection with Beaconsfield - only 53% voted; British politics remain as fluid as ever  
-Malcolm Rutherford also wants an end to FCO bashing; it reports you have poor relations with Mr Pym and that you have said that you wished Lord Carrington were back; you were by-passed on the EC Budget settlement and you have less love for Community than before

Media: Nigel Ryan leaves Thames TV after policy row

Welfare: Penlee families will get £384,000 each

**INTERNATIONAL:** French police said to have uncovered plot to kill Reagan at Summit  
Iran threatens to march on Baghdad; Basra bombed.

  
B Ingham  
29.5.82