



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

PRIME MINISTER

Press Digest for Sunday, May 30, 1982

Two subjects dominate again: Pope's visit and Falklands

FALKLANDS

Treatment: People- Red Berets hero pays price of courage; Col H is killed and we take 900 Argie prisoners

Mirror: 900 prisoners taken by paras in Falkland triumph; and under a picture of the Pope "We love you!"

News of the World: Para colonel dies fighting - hero scorned Argie bullets

Express: 900 PoWs, but Paras CO is killed; hero who led from front; Junta arms from South Africa?

Mail: Paras lose valiant colonel - H for Hero; troops capture 900 at Goose Green

Telegraph: Para CO killed; 900 Argentines captured; "outstanding feat for smaller force"; Galtieri hints at early end to war

Observer: Para CO killed in assault; 900 Argentine troops captured; Thatcher doubts over South African arms

Sunday Times: Paras colonel killed as 900 prisoners taken; Argentina arms link with Israel?

Comment: Mirror - As always in wars the men who fight for their country are paying for the blunders of others in high places; they are paying for the blunders of the diplomats in the smug FCO who failed to read the blazingly obvious signs about Argentine intentions; and for criminal immorality of international arms trade that supplies deadly weapons to unhinged and wildly dangerous men like the Argentine junta. They immense courage already leged

News of the World says serious charges by Eric Ogden MP about FCO destroying embarrassing documents and Governor Hunt being gagged must be investigated; our men must not fight and die in South Atlantic while our bureaucrats attempt to sweep misdeeds under carpet

Express, referring to workers' efforts behind war effort, says we are re-discovering a lot about ourselves and our nation. Reports coming out of Britain are almost as uplifting and heartening as those coming out of South Atlantic; leader attacks Christopher Wain, BBC Defence Correspondent, for suggesting that lack of news from Falklands may mean things are not going well; it was worthless, scaremongering speculation as MoD announcement showed 30 minutes later - just what is going on at BBC?

Mail: says if Tony Benn wants to discover why he is out of touch with the true spirit of Britain he knows who to ask - Captain Salt, of the Sheffield, and the Devonport dockyard workers who have volunteered to go to South Atlantic

PTO

Telegraph: Only one major land target - Stanley - now remains to be taken before campaign is crowned with success. But the end of fighting on the islands may not end fighting for them. Thus a diplomatic solution must ultimately be found. The less humiliation and bloodshed the better for the future of the whole region. So we must be planning for what comes after victory

Sunday Times: Judging from reports from the Argentine, defeat in the Falklands would merely strengthen Argentine resolve to get even; but from Ministerial statements it does appear that the Government recognises that a mere return to colonial status is not realistic. There can be no early return to terms offered to Argentina before the invasion. But in the end everything will have to be the subject of negotiation

Military: Guards and Gurkhas poised to storm ashore; Commandos reported to have already taken Douglas Settlement and Teal Inlet in North; net closing on Port Stanley

Little by Little Galtieri prepares Argentina for defeat; talks about unequal fight and says "I have no more weapons, nor cannons nor tanks for them. We have no more ships or planes..."

Argentine bombers narrowly missed field hospital at San Carlos

Mail says gaffe by MoD and admitting that Skyhawk bombs were failing to explode may have cost lives

Arms Trade: Express and Observer report Government concern about South African hand in supplying arms for Argentina; Observer says first class diplomatic row is blowing up

- Fears that junta is looking for arms in Cuba
- Sunday Times says there is growing evidence that Argentine is getting arms from organisations based in Israel.

Diplomacy: Governor Hunt reported to be seething with FCO for requesting him to stop making public statements

Media: Woodrow Wyatt, Mirror, referring to Robert Kee's resignation, asks if there is one law for those who suck up to BBC hierarchy and those who don't in writing to press

- Max Hastings reports anger and bitterness in bridgehead over extraordinary indiscretions of MoD and BBC World Service in announcing Paras were heading for Goose Green
- Observer says transcripts from Radio South Atlantic suggest that Mr Nott's promise that it would not engage in propaganda was very wide of the mark
- Observer says press coverage of the first 8 weeks of the crisis shows unmistakable signs of news management

Political Comment: Matt Coady, People, says Mr Nott is the most vulnerable figure on the Front Bench; Gordon Leak, NoW, says every action by British troops brings Mr Nott one step nearer day of reckoning; Peter Walker canvassed as successor

Alan Watkins, Observer, says Seapker was right to be upset with himself over the Andrew Faulds affair - he acted harshly and over-excitedly

Cecil Parkinson, NoW, says nation feels a sense of relief that someone of your calibre at the helm; Falklands transcends party politics and anyone who tried to exploit it for their own political ends would rightly find it rebounding



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George Gardiner, Express, says that when Union Jack flies again in Port Stanley, church bells should ring in Britain; we shall have shown that we can protect our people from the invader; the greatest significance will be effect upon the nation - on national unity, national leadership, national pride and national confidence - laying the ghost of Suez.

Ivan Fallon, Telegraph, says something fundamental may be happening as a result of Falklands which could lead to a complete change of perception about British-made.

Adam Raphael, Observer, says defence spending is bound to rise as a result of Falklands and Chancellor must be wondering whether pre-election tax cuts are going up in smoke

Welfare: South Atlantic fund tops £500,000

Politics: Shirley Williams reported to be backing David Owen for leadership of SDP

OTHER NEWS

Unions/Pay: New CPSA elections expected after voting blunders

- Government to offer public service workers no strike agreements in return for greater job security and more stable pay arrangements
- Malgo blacks recruitment by Dr Barnardo's because charity is closing a home near Kidderminster with redundancies

Summit: Sunday Times says there is no deal to be struck at this Summit and the pomp and circumstance may seem a little nauseating to the 30m unemployed in industrial world; but there is point to these Spring gatherings in that they check economic insularity

Industry: Motorists expected to be paying 5p more for petrol this week

- Observer says we have dropped plans for an early go ahead for Chunnel
- 600 cars a week are entering Northern Ireland from Republic - and coming to Britain - in new back door cut price traffic
- MSC asking Norman Tebbit to drop £150m community employment scheme in favour of a different employment-cum-training scheme
- Sunday Times says Government's efforts to hold down inflation now threatened by turn around in oil prices

Education: DES pay out £2261 compensation to girl caned at school 6 years ago; may spell the end of corporal punishment

Law and Order: Mail says it is the vigilance of the press, and particularly the Scottish Daily Record which brought Glasgow razor rapists to justice

- Many tributes, including from Lord Hailsham and Attorney-General, to Lord Denning on announcing his retirement
- Douglas Wakefield, most dangerous prisoner in custody, has been on hunger strike for 3 weeks

Northern Ireland: Observer leader says public opinion polls show that Mr Prior's proposals are well judged in relation to present attitudes of people of Northern Ireland.

AND OF COURSE, the POPE's visit which shares front pages with Falklands and dominates others with pictures.

B Ingham B Ingham, 30.5.82