



## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Press Secretary*

Press Digest for Monday, May 3, 1982

### FALKLANDS

Argentine cruiser hit by torpedos fired from British submarine

Foot turns down invitation to talks with Prime Minister

Mr Pym hints at a lull, unless Argentine attacks; says junta are running scared; events of the week-end must have concentrated their minds; but we still seek a negotiated solution

Argentine propaganda - lies - come under the microscope of most newspapers; and Mr Benn's report on reluctance of our young men to fight quickly taken up in BA

In Argentine: Benn quoted in broadcasts; Mail says junta's victories grow bigger in their fantasy; they describe you as grand-daughter of a vagabond who ended his days in Irish taverns

Examples of desperate lies being used to bolster up public confidence - Times says Argentine public think they are winning - are: we lose 2-11 planes; Port Stanley airport operating; Exeter sunk 3 times; and Hermes hit

But Galtieri admits conflict is costing Argentine many lives and will surely cost many more

In South Georgia: Accounts of how the Island was retaken - garrison surrendered without firing a shot, demoralised by pin point accuracy of British fire

In Falklands: Bombers guided on to target by laser beams planted by SAS men  
According to letter received from Islanders, Argentines offered a peace plan at public meeting involving normal life under Argentine flag - angrily turned down

In USA: Reagan considering expanding economic sanctions to match EC's - to explain measures in a few days

International: Spanish PM offers to mediate; Madrid says larger military action would be grave historical error; support in Bonn cools

President of Peru apparently misreads signals and says ceasefire about to be announced

Irish express growing concern over Falklands and may withdraw support for sanctions in EC

Pope renews plea for peace - fears it could lead to wider hostilities; but will visit Britain in spite of crisis, according to Worlock.

In UK: John Golding says Benn was warned by Labour Party NEC that his speeches could provide propaganda for junta;

PTO

Express says some Labour MPs think Foot had duty to respond to your invitation to talks; Steel relaxed now Foot has turned down talks; Foot does not want to be trapped into approving military confrontation which could split Labour Party

Dr Runcie backs decision to send Task Force

Military: Mail says you are preparing for an invasion - meanwhile tactics are to let Argentinians stew a bit

Pilot with Task Force quoted as saying Argentinians are shirking it; firing missiles too early and too far out

Prince Andrew flying anti-sub operations

Features of the first British casualty

Mirror feature - like many other newspapers - on airport raid - they didn't know what hit them; Mail says raid goes down in history as one of the most successful ever launched; being seen by Americans as on a par with Entebbe

Times now puts question mark over Argentine air capability

Sun says Argentines were so humiliated on Saturday they did not send out any planes yesterday

COMMENT: D/Star: Makes a special plea to Benn: shut up; don't abuse your privilege of free speech by continuing dangerous attacks on Task Force; British people don't forget political leaders who give comfort to enemy

Sun: Week-end's action will give confidence to Government and nation; but there may be setbacks; meanwhile Labour's Left are undermining Britain's cause and Benn has sunk to depths even by his standards

Mirror: Fighting has started and the talking has virtually stopped; but negotiation is even more urgent if more difficult to achieve; because Argentine people are behind Government it can't sue for peace unless catastrophe staring it in face

Express: Now that fighting has started party political exploitation can prove costly in terms of British lives; Foot's turning down invitation further evidence of unfitness to be leader of Opposition no one can argue Government has rushed intemperately into war

Mail: Underheading, Time is not on our side, it says Argentine is winning propaganda war at home with help of Benn; let's get the dispute settled with all reasonable speed

Telegraph: Task Force now in strong position to press forward with its mission; UN not a source of impartiality; world reflection of scheming of international politics; only - or perhaps not even - prospect of certain defeat will persuade Galtieri to give in; unreasonableness of Argentinian position makes battle almost inevitable; if so, Britain is free and right to use all military means to achieve aims; commenting on Foot's rejection of talks, it says that Labour Party is split 3 ways: patriots; Foot's lot who say OK so long as lives not lost; and pacifists.

Guardian: We are still seeking to regain Falklands by force only to give them away later in negotiation; meanwhile commentators remain content to see troops go in on basis we employ soldiers to get killed if necessary.

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Times: No cause for rejoicing over events this week-end - it had to be done and may have to be done again; relief, but only relief, that mission was accomplished with minimum loss of life is in order; it may be that junta only understands the hard language of military tragedy; might even be easier for them to submit proudly to defeat than to accept compromise; for these reasons Government must stand firm and proceed with policies until they have been accomplished

### OTHER NEWS

Industry: Vauxhall may increase workforce because of success of Cavalier range  
-Oil companies predict further increases in petrol prices - Mail suggests even up to 20p; Labour NEC pledges lead free petrol  
-Ministers ready to merge Community Work Scheme with Community Enterprise Programme  
-Cheap power package being got together to attract buyer for Invergordon  
-Technical problems cost new Mail on Sunday 400,000 copies  
-BR to abandon tilting train for time being because it has too many faults

Unions/Pay Joe Ashton, in D/Star, comes down on side of NHS workers - don't you care how they live?

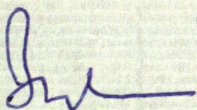
- CPSA says Militant Tendency poised to take over executive
- Unions warn chemical industry against taking action under Employment Bill
- Report written by trade unionist, and suppressed or near suppressed by TUC and British Library respectively, criticises both for failing to develop information services for trade unionists

Welfare: Government inquiry report will recommend one year trial period for social workers, monitored by independent inspectorate

U K Politics: Jack Warden, Express, article on your third anniversary which finds you in unique position of being more popular than when elected; but you are unlikely to be deceived and forget about a snap election  
Local elections likely to be influenced by effect of Falklands on public opinion

Defence: Irish Government angry over belated disclosure that a British sub sank one of their trawlers when it got caught up in nets; why didn't it surface to see what had happened to crew?

Law and Order: 19 year-old policewoman hit in face and thrown against wall in Fulham; Arsenal soccer fan stabbed after Highbury match on Saturday  
Magistrates and Home Office discussing idea of day-time prisoners only-allowing them to go home for night.



B Ingham  
3.5.82