

PRIME MINISTER from Bernard Ingham

c.c. Mr. Ingham ✓
Mr. Pattison

9/5

Press Summary: Sunday, 9 May, 1982

Falklands

While the diplomatic effort goes ahead at the UN with reports that the UN Secretary General is finding more common ground, the USA tells the Argentine they cannot win; official at State Department briefing says no one should underestimate British resolve; unless the Argentine troops are withdrawn, there will be new and terrible fighting and ultimately British victory.

Argentine reports that Royal Marines have already landed after the alleged discovery of a dinghy from the Hermes.

Press standing by for an invasion; Observer says we have given the Argentines 48 hours to get out or be thrown out.

Sun claims that Harriers chased off Mirages last night.

Military

Mirror says the Belgrano was sunk because it was acting as a spy ship.

Harriers fly non-stop to Ascension - a record.

Mail says the junta's fleet has run for cover to Ushiaia.

Sunday Times says the French Government appears to have misinformed the British about the ability of the Argentines to destroy the Sheffield - they said the Argentines had not been instructed on the mechanics of fitting Exocet.

Sheffield may be salvaged; arrangements being made to bring home her survivors.

Campaign started by the Victoria Cross Association to allow VCs to be awarded for action in the Falklands.

Diplomacy /

Diplomacy

Mail says Reagan's support has visibly cooled over the last 48 hours, but Haig remains constant behind us. Observer says that only Pope remains if the UN Secretary General fails.

In the Argentine

British school stoned and attempt to set it on fire.

Six finance houses have now closed their doors; Minister of Economic Affairs going to the IMF this weekend and will try to drum up money in Zurich and on Wall Street.

Politics

Harold Wilson, in News of the World, agrees with all you are trying to achieve, and supports your untiring efforts to find a solution.

Lord Home in the Express says Britain has no choice but to re-take the Falklands.

Express draws attention to your meeting with Enoch Powell, and asks whether an informal alliance over the Falklands has been struck up.

Sport

Spain wants a firm decision on whether England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will compete in the world cup. News of the World sports writer says we should pull out of the world cup now.

Comment

Mirror: not surprisingly, you did well in the elections, but a lot of questions will need to be answered when the business is over; meanwhile the final judgement on how to proceed will depend on you and your Ministers weighing the balance between a quick strike and a long blockade; Woodrow Wyatt says 18,000 islanders are worth the loss of life; territorial changes made by force must be resisted, and in so doing an enormous contribution to peace is made.

People: Whatever happens, we must hold steady to the simply truth - Britain is right and the Argentine wrong, and there must be an intensive new search for peace.

News of the World: the feud between the appeasers and patriots must be worth three divisions to Galtieri - the whiners and knockers should shut up; Gordon Leak lists Reg Race, Livingstone and Ted Knight as doing Galtieri's work for him - they have lost their way in their obsession to discredit you.

Express attacks the Irish performance over the crisis for the shabby purpose of domestic politics.

Mail attacks Brezhnev for saying, in connection with the Falklands, people want to be mastered in their own land; Tony Shrimmsley says one of Galtieri's greatest assets is the miserable news service coming from the MOD.

Telegraph: what must be resisted utterly is any attempt to tamper with Resolution 502 with its unqualified call for Argentine withdrawal; Peregrine Worsthorne says that if we give up for moral reasons out of concern to save lives, the whole defence of the Western World will have been shown to rest on sand.

Observer: the gap between the two sides was never so great as to justify going to war; in some ways the gap is narrower now and the need for patience and military restraint all the greater.

Sunday Times: if diplomacy won't get the Argentines off, we have two alternatives: blockade, or invasion, but perhaps without a frontal assault on Port Stanley.

Other News

TUC to withdraw support from the training scheme guaranteeing all school leavers a place because the Government will withdraw supplementary benefits from those who do not take part.

Tough new health checks being planned to cut down on malingering.

/ Rail:

Rail: People says McCarthy's 7 week/ ^{inquiry} was a total waste of time - he has said nothing; what a way to ruin a railway.

News of the World says British Rail will freeze railwaymen's pay until the ASLEF dispute is sorted out. Express says Trot. members of ASLEF are today planning new disruption.

Unions/Pay

CPSA Executive expect to move significantly less this week.

Terry Duffy names 12 Trots he wants banned from the Labour Party.

Politics

There is a great deal of analysis about the local election results. Sunday Times says the Falklands put the Tories into the lead, but what was more interesting was the pre-Falklands trend towards the Tories largely resulting from the economic improvement, an attractive Budget, and the fact that the Alliance had peaked too soon.

Local Authority

Woodrow Wyatt, commenting on the election results, says they clearly result from a national ceiling; the ratepayers have no democratic control over local authorities; towns should be run by professional executives, answerable to Whitehall and advised by councillors.

Law and Order

Enoch Powell says last year's Brixton riots were a beginning and not an end - calls for golden handshakes to encourage immigrants to go home.

People says garages are using the Swansea Vehicle Licensing Computer at £2 a time to track down motorists who owe them money.

Two men died in a fire barricaded in their cell in Strangeways.

/ Ireland

Ireland


27 arrests in London demonstration to mark the death of Sands.

as Whip
Nick Budgen resigns over the Northern Ireland Bill.

Connor Cruise O'Brien in the Observer says Haughey's initiative over the Falklands is likely to make Mr. Prior's path towards a Northern Ireland Assembly smoother; your next meeting with Hauchey is unlikely to give the impression that unity is on the way - so much the better.

International

Mail says Philby has made 2 trips to Cuba to mastermind a new Cuban propaganda and espionage offensive against the West.



9 May, 1982.