



Mr. ~~Loes~~ (No 10)

We spoke.

J. Holmes
27/4

Mr Giffard

MR HAIG'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINES

1. On receipt of Washington tel no 1473 I spoke to Sir N Henderson on the secure line to ask if he could give me some of the background. If Mr Haig were to go down to Buenos Aires again it appeared to be a significant change of tactic. He had intended to put his ideas on a 'take it or leave it' basis against a very short deadline. A delay of what might be 36 hours could present significant difficulties here since Sir N Henderson already knew some important decisions on the next phase of operations would have to be taken very soon.
2. Sir N Henderson said that he was very conscious of all this and he was also sure that Mr Haig understood absolutely that time was running out. He thought that Mr Haig might believe that his presence was essential to get the agreement out of General Galtieri.
3. I said that I would shortly be seeing Sir R Armstrong and others and would therefore let him know whether we wanted Sir N Henderson to advise Mr Haig on our behalf not to go to Buenos Aires.
4. While I was in Sir Robert Armstrong's office, Sir N Henderson telephoned again to say that he had been in touch with Mr Haig. The American proposals had been put to Galtieri, who in turn had put them to the Junta. Galtieri's mood was now very different. He was no longer 'rumbunctious' (Mr Haig's word) and was impressed that what were being put to him were US proposals. His main complaint so far had been that the US had not been able to stop us from recapturing South Georgia. Mr Haig would be seeing Costa Mendes again and stressing the urgency. He did not think that he would go to Buenos Aires and could deal with Galtieri if necessary on the telephone.
5. On a separate point Galtieri had asked Mr Haig whether there had been Argentinian casualties and whether the prisoners would be repatriated to Argentina. Mr Haig thought that confirmation from the British through him on these points would be helpful. After quick discussion with Sir R Armstrong and the others present, Sir N Henderson was authorised to ask Mr Haig to confirm to Galtieri that in the reoccupation of South Georgia there had only been one casualty, who was being treated on a British ship and that the prisoners of war would certainly be returned in due course.
6. Sir N Henderson has promised to send us a round-up of recent developments before tomorrow's ODSA meeting.

27 April 1982

Antony Acland
Antony Acland

/cc:

SECRET



cc: Mr Fearn, SAmD
Mr Weston, Defence Dept
Mr Williams
Mr Mallaby, Planning Staff
Mr Fenn, News Dept
Mr Ure
Mr Gillmore
Mr Wright
Lord Bridges
Mr Bullard
PS/Mr Onslow
PS



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