

FALKLAND ISLANDS: FCO SITREP: 0730 29 APRIL: OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

Reports from Mr Haig

1. Mr Haig told the Secretary of State that Sr Costa Mendez had made a clear and plaintive request for the continuation of negotiations. Later Mr Haig told Sir N Henderson that he was expecting to see Costa Mendez again (on 28 April); but it was highly unlikely that Costa Mendez would say anything worthwhile. In discussion of the timing of an American announcement that talks had broken down Mr Haig said he thought it would be better to give his explanation publicly on the evening of 29 April.

OAS/UN

2. After receiving formally the text of the OAS Resolution the President of the Security Council made a personal statement to the press. Sir A Parsons has described this publicly as being unacceptable in so far as it equated Britain with Argentina and suggested that we could be failing to implement UNSCR 502. The OAS Resolution will be circulated shortly as a Security Council document. Sir A Parsons recommends that he should write a reply setting out the reasons why we cannot accept the Resolution. The President of the OAS has formally sent a copy of the resolution to the Prime Minister.

TEZ

3. HMG's declaration was delivered to the Argentine Government at 1710 local time, 28 April.

Chile

4. On 28 April, the Chilean Government published an official denial that 'Tidepool' had become Chilean property. HM Ambassador Santiago believes we should also issue a formal denial.

Uruguay

5. The Uruguayans are willing to help with the repatriation of Argentine personnel and are also, in principle, willing to accept hospital ships.

Australia

6. On 28 April the Australians announced the return of their Ambassador to Buenos Aires.

NATO

7. Sir N Henderson suggests that we should consider obtaining a statement from the alliance in support of our position; this could be helpful in providing cover for the US Administration to give us some additional practical support.

US Opinion Poll

8. A poll due to be published on 29 April shows strong support for Britain and an overwhelming belief that the US should remain neutral in any war between Britain and Argentina.

BAS Personnel

9. Contact has been made with all BAS personnel and Misses Price and Buxton. All are well and next-of-kin are being informed.

Falklands Evacuation

10. A party of 16 will arrive at Heathrow this afternoon.

South Georgia

11. Full details have been received of all those captured on South Georgia.

British Aircraft

12. Peruvian airport workers have instituted a boycott of British aircraft and cargoes which will affect British Caledonian flights.

E. J. Hughes

29 April 1982

E J Hughes
Emergency Unit

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