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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

15 April 1982

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

AM 1/4
h.a.

FALKLAND ISLANDS : SITUATION REPORTS

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Emergency Unit produce a daily situation report at 0730 each morning, covering overnight developments relevant to the Falkland Islands dispute. At present, the reports are distributed mainly within the FCO; but it has been suggested that rather wider distribution might be useful. We would, therefore, propose to include you (and other recipients of this minute) on the circulation list in future.
2. The reports would be distributed (by tube where appropriate) to reach you by about 9 o'clock each morning.

Head of Emergency Unit

cc:

PS/Mr Whitelaw
PS/Mr Parkinson
PS/Sir R Armstrong,
Cabinet Office
R L Wade-Gery Esq CMG,
Cabinet Office
PS/Mr Nott
Sir B Tovey
Secretariat, Box 500
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DCDS(I), MOD
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Sir A Acland

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FALKLAND ISLANDS: SITREP BY FCO: 0730 15 APRIL:
OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

PARLIAMENT

1. The Prime Minister secured general Parliamentary endorsement over the Falklands during the Debate in the House on 14 April. She welcomed Haig's efforts at mediation but reiterated the UK's insistence on Argentine withdrawal and warned that if the maritime exclusion zone was challenged, it would be taken as evidence that the search for a peaceful solution had ended. Haig's further talks in Buenos Aires would be "crucial". The Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of the various economic measures in bringing pressure to bear on Argentina. It was announced that the Task Force would be reinforced with extra Harriers and the assault ship HMS Intrepid.

USA

2. Haig reported back to President Reagan who, in a subsequent news broadcast, continued to stress USA's impartial rôle as a friend of both countries seeking to achieve a peaceful solution of an "unnecessary disagreement". Haig is due to travel to Buenos Aires today (15 April).

3. There is to be an ODSA meeting at 0930 hours this morning (15 April) to discuss US concern about the Argentine reaction to the disclosure of US intelligence and operational assistance to us. In an attempt to defuse, Haig issued a statement yesterday afternoon (14 April) stressing that the US had "not acceded to requests [for assistance] that would go beyond the scope of customary patterns of cooperation based on existing bilateral agreements".

EC

4. The EC agreed on 14 April the text of a regulation imposing a total embargo on imports for one month (as opposed to fifteen days) with effect from 16 April.

Commonwealth

5. The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, has offered to send a personal message to President Reagan urging America to make it clear to Argentina that if it came to the point the USA would support the UK.

Latin America

6. Caracas have reported a further hardening of the Venezuelan position in support of Argentina (and Venezuelan information that the new Guatemalan Government were considering moving against Belize). The Peruvian Government, following our reply to their original proposal for a 72-hour truce (interpreted by the Peruvian media as a British rejection of the idea) have sent a further

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message repeating the proposal. HMA Lima believes that the Peruvian President is coming under increasing pressure from pro-Argentine groups. The Panamanian Ambassador to the UN apparently exceeded his instructions by delivering a long letter to the President of the Security Council supporting the Argentine cause. The *Panamanian* Argentine President subsequently assured our Ambassador that he had been instructed not to press for discussion of the letter until the outcome of the Haig mission had become clear.

Evacuation from the Falklands

7. Most of the 35-strong Falklands party are due to arrive at Gatwick this afternoon (15 April); one woman and her two children, travelling separately, will arrive at Heathrow on 16 April.

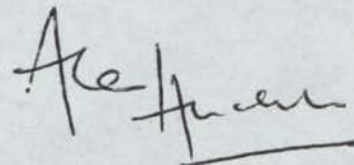
8. The Chief Secretary (Mr Baker) reports that, at the time of their departure, essential services were being maintained but there was a clamp-down on internal air services and the RT system. Private telegrams were being closely monitored. The people were sharply divided between hard-liners and those who wanted a negotiated settlement; Mr Baker believed that 80% would be in favour of a temporary evacuation. The Argentinians are increasing their defensive precautions. The morale of Argentinian troops has been low but has improved with the better organisation of supplies. Military conduct towards the Falk- landers is correct.

9. Still no firm information about the whereabouts of the Marines and BAS personnel from Grytviken.

British Community in Argentina

10. Bruce Carlisle, a leading member of the British Community in Argentina, is travelling to the UK to deliver a personal message to the Secretary of State from Costa Mendez.

15 April



A E Huckle
Emergency Unit

/Falkland Islands

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