

CONFIDENTIAL

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

SITREP BY FCO: 0730 21 APRIL: OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

1. Haig Initiative

President Reagan confirmed at a Press Conference following his meeting with Haig yesterday that the Secretary of State would travel to Washington on Thursday, 22 April with HMG's response to the Argentine proposals. US Press coverage, reflecting official briefing, had indicated that the Argentine proposals were unlikely to be acceptable to HMG. The US media remain consistently pro-British and there has been helpful activity in Congress and the Senate (Washington tel no. 1368).

2. Washington (tel no. 1370) have made various suggestions for the Secretary of State's programme.

3. Latin America: OAS

Washington have sent their report (tel nos. 1372-4) of the OAS Permanent Council meeting on 20 April which approved by 18 votes to 3 abstentions (US, Colombia, Trinidad/Tobago) a draft Argentine resolution calling for a consultative meeting of Rio Treaty member States on Monday, 26 April.

4. Brasilia tel no. 114 reports on likely Brazilian attitudes; they are unlikely actively to support Argentina in the 26 April meeting. The Peruvian representative at the OAS has been instructed to sound out opinion on Peru's truce proposals (Lima tel no. 103), Caracas (tel no. 114) report further hardening in Venezuelan attitudes.

5. Latin America: Economic Retaliation

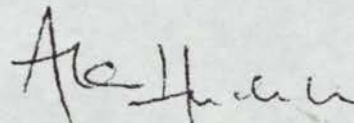
There has been a series of telegrams indicating that various Latin American countries (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay) are unlikely to be anxious to take retaliatory economic action against the EC, nor significantly to relieve the effects of EC action on the Argentine economy.

6. Commonwealth

The Canadians have assured us (Ottawa tel no. 227) that their press line on the return of the Canadian Ambassador to BA will make it clear that Canada has not changed their position. The Canadian Ambassador will take a message from Trudeau to Galtieri urging compliance with SCR 502.

7. Evacuation

A further group of 30 Falkland Islanders have left Port Stanley for Montevideo en route for the UK.



A E Huckle
Emergency Unit

0730

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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