

Prime Minister

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP, 0700, 22 APRIL

APR 22/4

Secretary of State's Visit to Washington

h.a. APR 22/4

7.45

1. Washington have now provided a full programme for Mr Pym's visit from arrival at 1000 hours, 22 April, to departure at 1945, 23 April. It includes a slot for a possible call on President Reagan as well as meetings with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary Haig, Judge Clark, Commonwealth and EC Ambassadors and various press briefings and interviews. Washington have reported on their talks with Mr Haig (since his return to Washington) and Mr Eagleburger. There is general agreement on the format and modalities of the visit and the need to restrain press comment on military matters.

2. Senator Moynihan has introduced a resolution calling on the President to impose a trade embargo against Argentina if SCR 502 is not implemented.

UN, OAS AND NAM

3. UKMIS New York have commented on proposals for the Secretary of State's visit and described the vote in the OAS as the first setback for us since the crisis began. There are conflicting reports on the likely attendance at and outcome of the OAS Foreign Ministers Meeting on 26 April, but agreement that it would constitute a major defeat for us in UN terms and jeopardise our Third World support if, as appears probable, the Argentines gained a two-thirds majority in favour of economic or other measures against us.

4. The Argentines are also pressing hard for an early communiqué by the NAM Coordinating Bureau.

US Press

5. While noting the strength of Latin American support for Argentina as evidenced by the OAS vote and quoting US officials' hopes that Mr Pym's visit will permit further attempts to promote a peaceful solution, there is much discussion of the possibilities now open to us to initiate military action.

USSR

6. Moscow have suggested that one of the aims of the Salyut 7 satellite, launched on 19 April, may be to monitor naval movements in the South Atlantic.

Argentina

7. Noticias Argentinas has reported that Galtieri will visit the Falklands ('archipelago') today. Costa Mendez has denied talking to London or Washington by telephone about the crisis, but will leave Buenos Aires for Washington on Saturday. Military sources have confirmed, without comment, that an Argentine Air Force plane was intercepted over-flying close to the British fleet.

/Chile/Argentina

Chile/Argentina

8. Santiago report that the Pope is summoning Chilean and Argentine Ambassadors today to urge their Governments to reach a definitive solution to the Beagle dispute by 26/27 April. Mr Heath will be sending an analysis of the implications for us of this development.

Brazil

9. Admiral Aratanha has assured HM Ambassador that no Brazilian ships or aircraft would operate beyond Brazilian territorial waters, implying that both navy and air force would steer clear of possible conflict.

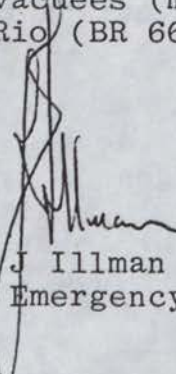
Australia

10. Canberra has reported an inclination on behalf of the Australian Government to send their Ambassador back to Buenos Aires, without publicity (they hope). They claim that this could increase rather than decrease the pressure they can exert on the Argentines in support of our policies.

Evacuation

11. BISBA quote an evacuee as claiming that the Islanders feel beleaguered, disappointed at the absence of any offer of financial assistance for evacuation from HMG and worried about being caught in crossfire or held as hostages. 'The majority want out for a temporary period.' The report also paints a sorry picture of the morale of young Argentine conscripts but indicates considerable and sinister military activities.

12. The further group of 30 evacuees (mainly ODA personnel) are due to arrive at Gatwick from Rio (BR 666) at 1555 this afternoon.


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Emergency Unit

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