



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 April 1982

Dear Mike,

Prime Minister's Statement on the Falklands:  
26 April

I enclose some draft paragraphs on the diplomatic side for inclusion in the Prime Minister's statement this afternoon, and a few supplementaries. There has not been time to clear these with Mr Pym but you may wish to pass him a copy in OD(SA).

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

M Pattison Esq  
10 Downing Street

FALKLANDS: FOREIGN OFFICE PARAGRAPHS FOR INCLUSION IN THE  
PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 26 APRIL

I should like to emphasise that the re-possession of South Georgia (and the attendant attack on an Argentine submarine) in no way alters the Government's determination to do everything possible to achieve a negotiated solution of the present crisis. <sup>Our objective remains unequivocally</sup> ~~We want~~ the implementation of the Security Council Resolution, and we want <sup>to achieve our objective</sup> it by peaceful means if possible.

It was in pursuit of a negotiated settlement that my Right Honourable Friend the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary visited Washington on 22 and 23 April. He had many hours of intensive detailed discussion with Mr Haig. He had taken with him to Washington various new ideas concerning the contents of an agreement. <sup>the</sup> Discussion <sup>was</sup> proved constructive and helpful. but I would be misleading the House if I did not <sup>say frankly</sup> admit that there are still considerable difficulties. Mr Haig now intends to pursue his efforts further with the Argentine Government.

The Argentine Foreign Minister is ~~now~~ reported not to be prepared to continue the negotiating process for the moment. I hope he will reconsider this. But

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he should be under no misapprehension that by dragging his feet at the negotiating table he will persuade us to drag ours as the British Task Force approaches ever closer to the Falklands. We are in earnest, and if the Argentines ever doubted this I trust that yesterday's events at Grytviken will have disillusioned them.

( When my Right Honourable Friend was in Washington he found, in the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and elsewhere, a lively understanding of our position and a willingness to support us when the time for overt support arrives. He also took the opportunity to talk to Commonwealth representatives and representatives of the European Community as well as the press in Washington, )

I should (also) bring the House up-to-date on the situation regarding the various groups of British people who have been affected by this crisis. ~~The House will be aware that~~ We have sent a message to the Falkland Islanders, through the BBC and by other means, making clear that those who wish to leave but do not have the financial means can expect support from the Government. So far I believe that about 100 people have left the Islands. Many others have left Port Stanley for the hinterland. If others wish temporarily to leave <sup>the Islands,</sup> they can rely on the full cooperation of the <sup>British</sup> Government.

The last news received of the British scientists in South Georgia was at 1300 GMT yesterday. They were in good heart.

/We



We are hoping soon to have direct news of them through the British forces who have re-possessed South Georgia.

(Honourable Members may also know that) the Government sent  
(On 23 April) a further message advising British citizens in  
Argentina to leave that country. (We have pointed out that, as  
the risks of conflict grow, those British citizens who have  
not yet departed should carefully reconsider their position.)  
We are also keeping in touch with the position of the three  
British journalists held in Southern Argentina through the  
British Interests Section in the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires.  
There are conflicting reports on whether they are to stand  
trial.

My Right Honourable Friends and I shall continue to keep  
the House fully informed on all aspects of the crisis as it  
develops.

REFERENCES

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

ARE WE AT WAR WITH ARGENTINA?

The operations we are conducting in the South Atlantic are based on our inherent right of self-defence of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies following the Argentine invasions. They are being conducted within that framework. Sr Costa Mendez's remark (that we are 'technically at war') appears to have been made off the cuff; we have had no formal communication from the Argentine Government.

WHY USE FORCE JUST BEFORE THE OAS MEETING?

Our military decisions in this crisis must be taken in the light of practical considerations in a wild and stormy part of the world, not in the light of schedules of meetings of regional organisations. There may be numerous meetings of the OAS over the next days and weeks: we cannot have our hands tied. Open minded members of the OAS will recognise that we are acting in self-defence; those with closed minds cannot be allowed to deflect us from our purpose.



WHY DID MR PYM NOT SEE PRESIDENT REAGAN?

My Right Honourable Friend's visit to Washington was specifically undertaken for further exchanges with Mr Haig who has been made personally responsible by the President for United States attempts to resolve the Falklands crisis. [I am] We are in touch with President Reagan as necessary.

WAS NOT OUR ACTION IN SOUTH GEORGIA IN BREACH OF SCR 502?

No. The recapture of British territory following armed aggression is an extension of our right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

DID HAIG KNOW ABOUT THE SOUTH GEORGIA OPERATION IN ADVANCE?

Mr Haig has always recognised that military pressure was not inconsistent with the diplomatic endeavours on which we have been engaged with him. In the light of that he can hardly have been surprised at what happened.

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