

Ref: B06533



PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) on 16th June

Military Issues

You might begin your meeting at 10.00 am tomorrow by asking the Chief of the Defence Staff to report on

(a) General Menendez' contacts with his Government in Buenos Aires: has he obtained their authority for his surrender? Does this extend to a comprehensive cessation of hostilities? Are there any military indications as to the Junta's intentions in that regard?

(b) The state of play on arrangements for repatriating Argentine prisoners of war.

(c) The situation on the Falklands: casualties among the civilian population; military casualty figures (Argentine as well as British); the extent of the damage to Port Stanley; the prospects for getting the airport operational again.

2. The question of burial arrangements for British servicemen killed in action will presumably now become actual again. The Defence Secretary earlier circulated a note on this (OD(SA)(82) 63) which has not yet been discussed. It was then his provisional view that it would be right to maintain the traditional practice by burying those killed in action in cemeteries on the Falklands. Is this still his view? Given that the number of British servicemen killed appears to have been relatively small, might it be feasible - and desirable - to satisfy individual requests of next of kin for repatriation of the bodies?

Political Issues

3. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (or Sir Antony Acland, since Mr Pym has been away in Riyadh) should report on

(a) the response to the message transmitted to the Argentine Government through the Swiss seeking confirmation that all hostilities were at an end and that they would accept the repatriation of Argentine prisoners.



(b) The situation in Buenos Aires: reactions by the Junta and by Argentine public opinion to the surrender on the Falklands.

(c) The reactions of other Governments: the United States; in the European Community (notably France and the Federal Republic of Germany); in Latin America; at the United Nations.

4. If there has been no clear Argentine response to your message, should the Governments represented at the Versailles Summit be asked to act on their offer to notify Argentina of their readiness to lift sanctions once a comprehensive cessation of hostilities has been agreed?

5. The Attorney General might be asked if the Order in Council regulating the respective responsibilities of Mr Hunt and the Commander Land Forces is ready to be laid.

Next Meeting

6. Thursday, 17th June at 10.00 am. (To be followed by Cabinet at 11.00 am).

A D S Goodall

15th June 1982

A D S GOODALL