

SUBJECT

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE  
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS ON SUNDAY 18 APRIL  
1982

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FCS: ... heard the latest run from Haig. You've probably seen it.

PM: Yes, I have seen it. It looks as if it is going to go on quite late tonight.

FCS: It does.

PM: But we have not very much information.

FCS: No, not very much information. I don't think it's frightfully hopeful but the good thing is that first of all if it all goes badly there will be time to breathe, you go back. And the other is before he decided to come here he will in effect consult us so that we feel, which seems to me quite likely, that it certainly isn't worth it, we don't let him make that journey.

PM: Yes, I have an awful suspicion that compromise is going to be everything to him. I just have that flavour from the latest telegram. I don't know whether there is any truth whatsoever in what Brian Walden was putting out at lunchtime.

FCS: Well I have absolutely no knowledge at all, no more than that. But I tell you what was good about that programme I thought, and that was that they were all those four, including Clinton Davis, were so solid. Wasn't that marvellous.

PM: They were absolutely solid and strengthened our arm enormously. Indeed, made me resolute not to go any further at all.

FCS: Absolutely, I quite agree. And particularly after your call last night so I thought that was all really very good.

PM: Yes, and there's been some kind of meeting at 5 o'clock today, wasn't there?

FCS: Oh, 6 o'clock our time it was going to start over there and it all may take a very long time. But it's the first breather I've  
/ had

had today, which is good.

PM: You got away at lunchtime did you.

FCS: Yes, I went for a walk this afternoon. Did me a power of good.

PM: Do you want to talk about this thing tonight, Francis?

FCS: Well I wouldn't have thought it was necessary really, unless you want to. But it seems to me it will wait till tomorrow.

PM: Yes, I think it will.

FCS: Probably. That is what I had thought. I don't think it's necessary myself.

PM: No, I don't. I'm still unhappy about it but I'll still be unhappy about it tomorrow morning. So unhappiness can persist until tomorrow morning. Because I thought we'd demolished three quarters of that one last night but it's back now.

FCS: Well obviously. But I thought the thing to do was for us all to go to work after that, you see, and see what we could come up with and so that's the purpose of it.

PM: Have you got a devil's advocate over there.

FCS: Oh yes, plenty of them turn themselves into that.

PM: Well I'd better get one I think from the Cabinet Office before tomorrow morning.

FCS: Yes, and we've got to judge it in the light of the situation at the time. But I thought it was helpful, at least I hope it was helpful to put up something in the light of all that discussion and just see what you made of it.

PM: Yes. I hope Haig has some indication from us that we're pretty well near the end of the line that we can go to.

/ FCS:

FCS: Oh, I think without doubt.

PM: Because it looks to me from the earlier telegrams as if he were discussing things that went way beyond what we could agree.

FCS: Absolutely, oh totally. Again, we don't know what he may be up to but it does seem to me to be there in his telegram that when his present round is over, whenever that may be, we'll hear from him as to the nature of it and all the rest of it.

PM: So that we have some warning. What I do not want is for him to think that, and this is what is worrying me slightly, above all we want him to continue negotiations and we want it so much that the negotiations become everything. And the withdrawal nothing. The negotiations aren't the end in themselves. And that's just what worries me just a little bit that he might give the impression oh well some hope and it's all now up to Britain. Which I just don't think would be right at all. And it could be devastating if he gave that impression.

FCS: Oh I quite agree. He's quite clear what our position is. And in the morning also we will have ..

PM: He can't telephone of course from there can he? No, of course not.

FCS: And we'll also have in the morning, Margaret, advice from Tony Parsons.

PM: Yes, he is wholly in the United Nations milieu of course. I'd like to speak to him. I wonder if I can speak to him tonight. I'll see if I can get hold of him later. It's about lunchtime his time. I wonder if we can get him.

FCS: I should think he's probably working.

PM: Probably working, well we'll see. I'd like to just have a talk with him. All right Francis and then we'll have the latest position tomorrow morning. Thank you so much.

FCS: Just to say that either on Tuesday or Wednesday, I don't know / on which

on which, I'm trying to set up an hour followed by lunch in Brussels for the Foreign Ministers who are wanting to know more and I think I ought to respond to that urgently.

PM: I think that's a very good idea because we have to keep them on side.

FCS: Yes, that's right. And I think if I go, the telegrams have gone out now so and I think ...

PM: I think that will be very good. Anyway, I'm doing Questions on Tuesday.

FCS: Yes, I'll do a statement tomorrow.

PM: Yes, Silkin's bound to have a question if we don't volunteer one.

FCS: Oh, we'll volunteer one, there's no question about that in my view.

PM: I agree. Thank you very much for phoning.