

Prime Minister

AM 15/4

Mr Fearn, SAMD

h-a.

Falklands: Conversation with Mr Haig

Mr Haig rang the Secretary of State at 1355 today.

Mr Haig said that there was still no word from Buenos Aires. There appeared still to be a stalemate, with the Navy in favour of action, and the Airforce and Army preferring negotiation. The only thing that the US side could do was not to look too nervous; the Junta owed them an answer, and they should be prepared to wait for it. The Secretary of State said they could only wait for a while. Mr Haig agreed. If there was still no reply by the morning of 29 April, the United States would go public. Mr Pym said that the timing was important for us, partly for Parliamentary reasons. He suggested that it might be useful for him to speak to Mr Haig again later today. In answer to a question from Mr Pym, Mr Haig confirmed that the Argentinians were in no doubt of the consequences of a negative response on their part.

Mr Pym said that he wanted to be able to reassure the Prime Minister on the issue of security arrangements in the interim period, if the Argentinians decided to accept the American draft. We would need absolute confidence that the Argentinians would not simply go back into the Islands, and this - for understandable reasons - was not covered explicitly in the draft. He knew that this point still caused the Prime Minister concern. Mr Haig said that it went without saying that the United States would be ready to make the necessary provision in the context of a favourable outcome.

J. E. Jones

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fr (F N Richards)

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