



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

A R Rawsthorne Esq
 Secretary
 Falkland Islands Review Committee
 Old Admiralty Building (Room 194)

22 July 1982

Dear Rawsthorne,

FALKLAND ISLANDS REVIEW

1. We have assembled, ready for inspection, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office files bearing on the Falkland Islands dispute, on the following basis:

- (a) Departmental files covering the earlier part of the dispute (1965-1975);
- (b) Departmental files, and other papers, relevant to more recent developments in the dispute (1976-2 April 1982).

A 2. As a general guide, a summary of the history of Anglo-Argentine negotiations over the whole period 1965-April 1982 has been prepared.

B 3. For a more detailed understanding of the earlier period, the Committee may wish to begin their review by looking at the two Research Department memoranda which trace developments for the periods 1965-1968 and 1969-1974 (DS(L) 229 and DS(L) 395). These memoranda are not concerned with historical arguments surrounding the British or Argentine claims to the Islands (we intend to provide you shortly with papers on our legal title to the Islands and the Dependencies); but they describe the intensification and progress of the dispute following the Argentine Government's decision to press its claim through the UN and the efforts made over the years to approach a peaceful settlement to the problem. Departmental files covering the

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C period provided the primary source material for the memoranda. The files were thoroughly scrutinised at the time. If however the Committee wish to examine events of this earlier period more thoroughly, all the files are available for inspection (and a list of these files is provided).

D 4. The more recent period will obviously be of greater interest to the Committee. Part of this period is covered by the Research Department memorandum detailing developments from 1974-78 (DS(L) 1327). (The memorandum omits references to the sending of a Task Force in November 1977. A separate note on this is attached to the memorandum). The Committee may wish to examine events from 1976 onwards more closely. As a guide to these events, a full chronology of main developments from early 1976 (when RRS Shackleton was fired upon by the Argentines) to 2 April 1982 is included. The chronology carries a secret classification in view of the references to secret talks held eg in July and August 1976 in Paris and Buenos Aires respectively, and in September 1980 in Geneva between Mr Ridley and Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Comodoro Cavandoli. A further memorandum, covering the period 1979 - 2 April 1982, is being urgently prepared and will be made available to the Committee in due course.

E 5. In addition to the above, the Committee will wish to consult all the papers held in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which are relevant to the Argentine invasion for the period from 1976 until 2 April 1982. It is understood that the Committee will have separate access through the Cabinet Office to Cabinet/Cabinet Committee papers, JIC assessments and to intelligence material. The papers held in the FCO include:

F (a) Departmental files (the majority from South America G Department, and some from Defence Department, UN Department and Planning Staff). We are providing a list of the most relevant departmental files; lists of key folios in those files, to which copies of the key folios are attached (the key folios do not include ODP or OD memoranda or minutes of ODP/OD meetings, to which the Committee will have separate access through the Cabinet Office); and a third list of files which contain papers which the Committee may consider relevant but which are probably less important.

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- J (c) Background material, of which a list and copies are provided. These papers include biographies of Argentine personalities, the FCO Country Assessment sheet for Argentina, relevant Diplomatic Reports, extracts from Hansard and a summary of Argentine press comment December 1981 - March 1982.
- K 6. As requested, we have drawn up a list of FCO Ministers and senior officials who have been directly involved in the handling of the Falklands dispute, and of our Ambassadors in Buenos Aires and Governors in Port Stanley, over the period 1965-82.
7. This letter is intended to be a guide to the collection of FCO papers which is being sent to you separately today. Eight sets are being provided, with the material in each set identified with the appropriate letter flags shown above. The original FCO files for 1982, together with photocopies of the papers on our files for the period 1-31 December 1981, accompany the collection of papers.
8. When members of the Committee wish to consult the original FCO files for the preceding period, these files and a room for the Committee's use will be at all times available in the FCO.

Yours sincerely
Antony Acland

Antony Acland

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