

CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 1982

Present:

B Mower - No 10
P Brazier - COI
N Fenn - FCO
J Gee - MoD
D Colvin - Cabinet Office
S Fuller - Presentation Unit
R Hatfield - Presentation Unit
H Mills - Chancellor of the
Duchy's Office.

Military

MoD had no further action to report beyond the two statements put out yesterday dealing with successive attacks on Task Force vessels. They would be filling in some of the details about casualties in the course of the day. They also hoped to make a statement about Argentine's bombing the Liberian tanker. Messages had been intercepted which showed unequivocally that the Argentines were aware of what they were doing and had threatened to attack again unless the tanker pulled into an Argentine port. One of yesterday's statements had confirmed that 5 Brigade was now deployed and an on record briefing about their landing was being arranged for this afternoon.

The Permanent Under Secretary at MoD would be seeing editors, among other things to talk about arrangements for allowing further journalists on the Islands after the capture of Port Stanley.

MoD also warned the Group of the forthcoming Max Hastings article which would criticise official public relations arrangements on the Islands.

FCO confirmed that we had put Swedish and French questions to Commander Astiz yesterday and, as expected, he had declined to reply. We expected to be sending him back soon. The Group commented that this could lead to Press questions on why we should not seek an exchange for the RAF pilot held by the Argentines.

Diplomatic

FCO commented on Haig's Press Conference yesterday which implied that the US participation in any future arrangements would depend on a range of factors. We were, of course, expecting that the US were not going to buy a pig in a poke. However, it was too soon to be speculating about what conditions may exist when we reached that point.

The Secretary General's last minute proposals had been leaked in Argentina together with Galtieri's rejection of them. FCO, if asked, said they would have to confirm that we would not have found them acceptable. However it illustrated that the Argentines were not prepared to begin to discuss the question of withdrawal.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group would take place at 10 am on Thursday 10 June 1982.

Brian Mower

BRIAN MOWER
9 June 1982

CONFIDENTIAL