



FALKLAND ISLANDS: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS COVERING US INVOLVEMENT
IN THE DISPUTE: MARCH TO JUNE 1982

28 March

Lord Carrington sends message to Secretary Haig asking the US to take up with the Argentines their illegal landing on South Georgia, stressing the need to defuse the situation and find an acceptable solution.

29 March

Sir Nicholas Henderson calls on Deputy Secretary Stoessel at the State Department, at latter's request. Stoessel urges restraint on both sides saying that the US will not take sides. HMA says that the US cannot be neutral in a case of illegal occupation of British territory.

30 March

Lord Carrington summons US Charge d'Affaires in London (Ed Streator) and expresses disquiet at the attitude expressed by Mr Stoessel.

Sir Nicholas Henderson speaks to Judge Clark, National Security Adviser at the White House, again protesting about the US neutral stance.

31 March

In a message to President Reagan, the Prime Minister leaves the President in no doubt about the seriousness of the situation and asks him to speak urgently to the Argentine President seeking an immediate assurance that he will not authorise any landing on the Falklands.

HMA calls on Secretary Haig and gives him a paper setting out the evidence pointing categorically to an Argentinian intention to invade the Falklands on 2 April. Haig says evidence had not been vouchsafed to him by his staff (though it was available to the Americans) and that urgent action was necessary. Assistant Secretary Enders, present at the meeting, minimises the threat.

/1 April



1 April

US Ambassador in Buenos Aires calls on Argentine Foreign Minister Costa Mendez and subsequently delivers a message from Secretary Haig (endorsed by President Reagan) to General Galtieri. Galtieri is unresponsive.

President Reagan, after an earlier abortive attempt, speaks to President Galtieri by telephone urging him not to take action against the Falklands, and leaving him in no doubt of the consequences of action upon US/Argentine relations. President offers to send Vice-President Bush to Buenos Aires. Approach is rebuffed. Haig tells HMA that an invasion looks inevitable.

2 April

State Department issue a statement, following the Argentine invasion, deploring the use of force and calling on Argentina immediately to cease hostilities and withdraw its military forces from the Falkland Islands. HMA calls on Secretary Haig and asks him to take steps against Argentina (recall of US Ambassador, rallying opposition in the OAS and an embargo on defence sales). Haig undertakes to consider requests.

US responds positively to a British request for use of Wideawake Air Force Base on Ascension Island and for cooperation over fuel supplies etc.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick attends gala dinner by Argentine Ambassador in her honour.

3 April

US votes in favour of UN Security Council Resolution 502 calling for Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands.

5 April

HMA, following discussions with Haig, informs London that it is possible that the US Administration will wish to become involved in efforts to find a solution so as to avert conflict.

Ambassador calls on Vice-President Bush and Defense Secretary Weinberger to brief them on the Falklands.

HMA begins series of meetings with US Congressmen and radio and TV interviews (separate lists attached) to lobby for support for Britain over the Falklands.

/5 April (continued)

5 April (continued)

Ambassador tells Deputy Secretary Stoessel that any solution to the Falklands will have to entail withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Islands.

At an impromptu press conference, President Reagan says the confrontation between Britain and Argentina puts the US in a very difficult position because it has friendly relations with both countries. He says the issue should not come to the point of Britain retaking the Islands by force and expresses willingness to act as an honest broker.

At special protocolary session of the OAS Argentine Foreign Minister calls on Latin American countries to support Argentina but stops short of invoking the Rio Treaty.

6 April

Ambassador calls on Haig at latter's request. Delivers message from Mr Pym (newly appointed Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary). Haig sees need for early mediation involving Argentine withdrawal but with something in return eg international interim administration for the Islands. Haig says it is important that US should not lose credibility with the Argentinians by tilting too far to the UK. He also confirms that the US will not be allowing further arms deliveries to Argentina.

Prime Minister sends message to President Reagan asking US to take economic measures against Argentina.

Secretary Haig telephones Mr Pym to propose that he visit London to sound out UK views and to try out some ideas before going on to Buenos Aires. In subsequent conversation, Ambassador tells Haig that it might be better for him to visit Buenos Aires first since HMG's views are already perfectly clear.

Defense Secretary Weinberger telephones Ambassador to make clear that the United States will not be neutral as between Britain and Argentina in the dispute.

7 April

Secretary Haig maintains his determination to visit London and Buenos Aires. Ambassador makes clear to Haig that his talks in London are not to be regarded as mediation.



7 April (continued)

Ambassador warns London that the US will be caught between the desire to support us and their extreme current sensitivity to the dangers to them of instability in Central and Southern America.

8 April

Permanent Council of the OAS meets in Washington but adjourns without conclusion.

New York Times story reports differences of opinion within the State Department between Latin American experts, supporting US neutrality, and Haig and Eagleburger supporting a pro-UK line .

European Community Ambassadors, meeting in Washington, issue statement unanimously and warmly supporting the need for full and immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 502.

8-9 April

Secretary Haig visits London for talks with the Prime Minister and Mr Pym: Haig tells HMG there must be some face-saving device for Argentina. Haig presents his discussions publicly as being about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 502. Gives an assurance that no US arms will be supplied to Argentina.

9-11 April

Secretary Haig visits Buenos Aires for talks with the Argentine junta.

11 April

US Permanent Representative at the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick, in a television interview, defends her attendance at Argentine dinner in her honour on 2 April.

In a message to the Prime Minister from Buenos Aires, Secretary Haig talks of lengthy and intensive discussions in Buenos Aires and of the need to avoid any military confrontation until the Prime Minister has been able to consider his latest draft proposals.

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12 April

Secretary Haig returns to London for more talks with the Prime Minister and Mr Pym. Secretary Haig prepares to leave for Argentina, but following telephone conversations between Haig and Costa Mendez (which reveal new difficulties on the Argentine side) Secretary Haig delays his departure and stays the night in London.

13 April

Further meetings between the Prime Minister and Secretary Haig produce new US text of possible interim agreement on the Falkland Islands. Secretary Haig returns to Washington.

OAS Permanent Council, meeting in Washington, adopts resolution expressing concern over Falklands dispute and its fervent hope for a peaceful solution.

14 April

In a statement in the House of Commons the Prime Minister describes ideas conveyed to Mr Haig by Argentine Foreign Minister Costa Mendez in telephone conversations on 12 April as not acceptable.

Following leaks about US defence intelligence assistance to the United Kingdom, Secretary Haig says the United States will not go beyond the scope of customary patterns of cooperation based on existing bilateral agreements.

15 April

Secretary Haig returns to Buenos Aires. In a message before his departure Mr Pym stresses the need for concrete arrangements, involving the US, which would provide an effective deterrent to future Argentine use of force.

In conversations at the State Department, Under-Secretary Eagleburger expresses concern about developing Soviet involvement in the dispute and expresses the view that any successor regime to that of Galtieri would probably be worse.

State Department warn Embassy that they have received a request from the Argentinians for Landsat satellite photographic surveillance of the Falkland Islands.

President Galtieri telephones President Reagan to affirm his desire for a peaceful settlement. President Reagan asks for flexibility and restraint by all parties in the days ahead.

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16 April

US newspaper columnist Jack Anderson, quoting from a transcript of a telephone conversation between Haig and the President, alleges that Haig told the President that the Argentinians were being a little more flexible than the British. White House staff privately confirm the accuracy of the transcript but say that the President and Haig were expressing half-formed ideas.

Ambassador calls on a number of leading Senators in Congress. Senator Pell (ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee) issues statement supporting Britain.

Under-Secretary for Security Assistance James Buckley, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says that the Argentine invasion of the Falklands has stalled further proceedings on the possible resumption of US military assistance to Argentina.

US Government confirms that Argentine request for Landsat satellite photographs will be met but emphasises that photographs are of no military value.

17 April

Secretary Haig in Buenos Aires transmits to Mr Pym suggested Argentine proposals on a Falklands interim administration which Mr Haig describes as "totally unacceptable".

Judge Clark (National Security Adviser) tells the Ambassador that Galtieri and Costa Mendez have been completely overruled by the junta who are making quite unacceptable proposals to Secretary Haig. Haig instructed to have a meeting with the junta leaving them in no doubt that the US realises which side is being intransigent and making clear which side they will be on if talks break down.

Prime Minister and President Reagan speak on the telephone. President Reagan says it would not be reasonable to ask the UK to move any further.

18 April

Secretary Haig, still in Buenos Aires, tells Mr Pym in a message that he will suspend his mission, making clear where responsibility lies, if the Argentinians do not prove more reasonable. In a later message, Mr Haig detects "some movement towards a workable solution for you and the Argentines."

/19 April



19 April

In a message to Secretary Haig in Buenos Aires Mr Pym says that the UK will need "to think carefully about anything you may have worked out with the Argentines before giving you our views". In a further message from Mr Haig (in Buenos Aires) to Mr Pym containing the so-called Buenos Aires text Mr Haig says "my own disappointment with this text prevents me from attempting to influence you in any way". In reply to Mr Haig Mr Pym shares his disappointment saying that the UK's basic principles have not been met.

Argentina requests special meeting of the OAS Permanent Council in Washington.

20 April

OAS Permanent Council convenes Rio Treaty meeting to consider "the grave situation that has arisen in the South Atlantic".

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Secretary Haig, President Reagan says that the Argentines had made some changes in their position, that their revised proposals had been forwarded to London and that Mr Pym will be visiting Washington on 22 April for talks with Haig. The President says "I just hope that we can keep this process going and there will be restraint on both countries from taking any action that would endanger it".

21 April

Secretary Haig tells the Ambassador of the utter irrationality and chaotic nature of the Argentine leadership. He says he left Galtieri in no doubt that if talks were to break down because of Argentine intransigence, the US would be on the British side.

Mr Pym sends proposed changes to the Buenos Aires text resulting from Mr Haig's meeting with the Argentine junta.

Senator Moynihan (D-New York) introduces draft Resolution in the Senate calling for US trade embargo against Argentina.

22-23 April

Mr Pym visits Washington for talks with Secretary Haig. Holds meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has breakfast with Judge Clark. Mr Pym takes back to London an amended text based on the Buenos Aires text but with UK and further US amendments. Mr Pym gives to Secretary Haig text of a possible letter incorporating US security guarantees in the event of a settlement.

/23 April

23 April

In press briefing to British correspondents in Washington Mr Pym says that serious difficulties remain and that he and Mr Haig have been exploring all the ideas and proposals that have come up for withdrawal of Argentine forces, the arrangements to be made thereafter and a long-term solution in accordance with the wishes of the people.

24 April

US Government instructs its Ambassadors in Latin America to tell Governments there that it has grave reservations about any proposals within the OAS framework which might prejudice Haig's mediation efforts.

Secretary Haig sends message to the Prime Minister saying that if the text of proposals taken back to London by Mr Pym is acceptable to the UK the US will present them simultaneously and formally to the UK and Argentina. The Prime Minister, in reply, says that since Argentina was the aggressor "the next step should be for you to put your ideas to them". Secretary Haig agrees.

25 April

Britain retakes South Georgia. Argentine Foreign Minister, arriving in New York, says that Britain and Argentina are now at war. On arrival in Washington for OAS meeting Costa Mendez refuses to meet Haig because of the invasion of South Georgia.

26 April

In a speech to the US Chamber of Commerce President Reagan says: "We remain determined to do all we can to help Britain and Argentina resolve their differences without further conflict".

In a statement in the House of Commons the Prime Minister says: "There are still considerable difficulties. Mr Haig now intends to pursue his efforts further with the Argentine Government."

Consultations under the Rio Treaty begin in Washington with most Rio Treaty signatories represented by their Foreign Ministers. Costa Mendez makes violent speech. Haig is greeted by silence when he makes a firm statement that force was used by Argentina and that Security Council Resolution 502 laid down the basis for a settlement.

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26 April (continued)

Mr Pym in message to Secretary Haig proposes revised and simpler approach to negotiations following the taking of South Georgia. This would involve Argentine withdrawal, turning back the task force, the restoration of the traditional administration followed by negotiations. This plan to be floated, conceivably through the Mexicans, at the OAS meeting. Haig tells Ambassador that he is surprised and alarmed at the suggestion and will not put it forward himself. British Government accepts this position. Haig, in further message to Mr Pym, says that he will now present the proposals worked out by Mr Pym and himself in Washington to the Argentinians.

27 April

Late on 27 April Haig telephones Ambassador to say that the Argentinians are proposing delay in his visit to Argentina and that he will therefore transmit the text of the US proposals via the US Ambassador in Buenos Aires. Haig presents US proposals to HMG.

Defence Secretary Weinberger tells the Ambassador that he is delighted by the South Georgia operation and that President Reagan is too.

28 April

Just after midnight, Haig telephones the Ambassador to say that the US has not had an Argentine response to the US proposals but that there are rumours that the army and air force members of the junta are in favour of accepting and the navy against.

Rio signatories meeting in Washington adopt a Resolution on the Falklands recognising Argentine sovereignty, calling for an immediate truce but failing to give Argentina concrete support.

Secretary Haig tells the Ambassador that the Argentinians are likely to come forward with counterproposals to US plan. On instructions from Mr Pym, Ambassador tells Haig that Mr Pym expects him to tell Costa Mendez that any counterproposals by the Argentinians at this stage would be treated as a rejection of the US proposals.

Haig subsequently meets Costa Mendez.

In telephone conversation with Haig after that meeting Mr Pym urges Haig not to allow the Argentinians to prevaricate further. Haig says he has no choice but to carry on.

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29 April

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In message to Secretary Haig Mr Pym says that the British Cabinet believes that Argentinian delay and requests for amendments to the US proposals must be construed as rejection. Expresses the hope that the US will confirm this publicly and that the UK will be able to rely on the active support of the US in applying pressure on Argentina.

Later on 29 April Under-Secretary Eagleburger gives the Embassy a copy of a letter just received by Haig from Costa Mendez which states that the US proposals fall short of Argentine demands and do not satisfy Argentina's immediate aspirations.

US Senate, by 79 votes to 1 (Senator Jesse Helms) resolves that US cannot remain neutral over Falklands and supports British position.

30 April

Secretary Haig issues statement saying that, while the US had reason to hope that the UK would consider settlement on the lines of US proposals, Argentina could not accept. In the light of Argentina's failure to accept a compromise Haig announces following measures ordered by the President:

- (a) Suspension of all military exports to Argentina;
- (b) The withholding of certification of Argentine eligibility for military sales;
- (c) The suspension of new export/import bank credits and guarantees; and
- (d) The suspension of commodity credit corporation loans.

President also directs that the United States should respond positively to requests for materiel support for British forces.

In a press conference in London Mr Pym welcomes US support and announces that he will be visiting Washington for talks with Secretary Haig.

In remarks to television correspondents President Reagan says that the Argentinians resorted to armed aggression and the principle that all must abide by is that armed aggression of that kind must not be allowed to succeed.

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MAY

1-2 May

Mr Pym visits Washington for talks with Secretary Haig and Defense Secretary Weinberger.

2 May

In a private talk between Mr Pym and Secretary Haig, Haig outlines a possible diplomatic solution which had originated as a Peruvian initiative, modified by the Americans. Main elements are ceasefire, mutual withdrawal of forces and the involvement of third parties on a temporary basis in administering the Islands and in seeking a definitive agreement.

2-3 May

Mr Pym in New York for meetings with UN Secretary General and President of the Security Council. UN Secretary General gives Mr Pym (and separately to the Argentines) an outline for UN-sponsored settlement; text of which is subsequently given by the Embassy to the State Department.

3 May

Secretary Haig telephones the Ambassador three times to say that he has spoken to the Peruvian President who complained that British action (sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano) has also torpedoed peace efforts. Haig expresses anxiety that US opinion will become less favourable to us if further successful military action is taken by the UK. The Ambassador responds robustly. In a subsequent meeting with the Ambassador Haig says that the US/Peruvian seven-point plan is likely to be acceptable to the Argentinians but that Britain should desperately urgently propose a ceasefire which would enable the plan to come into effect.

Late on 3 May Haig sends Assistant-Secretary Enders to discuss US/Peruvian proposals with the Ambassador and to give the Ambassador the text of a letter to Mr Pym from Secretary Haig expressing concern that, as the military situation gets worse for the Argentines, Britain will be left with a major long-term military burden. He proposes putting the US/Peruvian plan to the parties stipulating that they have 48 hours in which to accept or reject the proposal and suggesting that the British Government announce that it will take no offensive action during that 48 hour period provided the Argentines show corresponding restraint.

/4 May

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4 May

Secretary Haig tells the Ambassador that the Argentinians are being "more intransigent than ever".

HMG sends Haig its own revision of the US/Peruvian plan implying that we would be willing to accept it subject to Argentine agreement. In three-hour session with Ambassador, Haig believes our amendments will not run and implores HMG to have another look to see whether we cannot accept some new wording which, following his discussion with the Ambassador, is transmitted to London. In a message to Mr Pym Haig says that his version has a reasonable chance of acceptance provided the Argentines are now of a mind to show greater flexibility.

In message to President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher asks the US to take measures against Argentine imports.

5 May

House of Representatives adopts by voice vote a Resolution stating that Argentina should withdraw its forces from the Falkland Islands and that, if peaceful resolution of the conflict fails, the US should provide full diplomatic support to Great Britain.

In message to Secretary Haig Mr Pym proposes some amendments to the latest version of the US/Peruvian plan and make clear that the Argentines are not included in the scope of the agreement. Haig accepts proposed amendments. Secretary Haig speaks by telephone to the UN Secretary General to try to head off pending action in the Security Council.

Secretary Haig puts final version of US/Peruvian proposals to the Argentines via the Peruvian President.

Embassy reports to London that the Argentinians will now be seeking to shift the focus of international discussions on the Falklands to the UN, hence Costa Mendez's impending visit there. Embassy warns that there must be some danger to us in the UN forum and, if we lost the US/Peruvian plan, of missing an opportunity to get across our readiness for a ceasefire upon reasonable terms.

6 May

Secretary Haig telephones the Ambassador to say that the Argentines have definitely turned down the proposed US/Peruvian plan. Haig tells the Ambassador that he is very suspicious both of President Belaunde of Peru and of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar who, he believes, is trying to exclude the US from involvement in a peace plan. Haig believes the Argentinians are not yet seriously interested in negotiation.

7 May

In a message to all NATO Foreign Ministers Secretary Haig outlines

/7 May (continued)



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7 May (continued)

US/Peruvian plan saying that Britain was prepared to give the most serious consideration to acceptance of the proposal.

Mr Pym describes to Parliament the collapse of the US/Peruvian plan and announces that we had been willing to accept and implement the interim agreement proposed under it. Negotiations in New York, involving Sir A Parsons and the Secretary General, on a UN-sponsored settlement now begin to occupy centre stage.

President Reagan, asked about the UK's announcement that Argentine military aircraft and warships outside their coastal waters would be regarded as hostile, hopes there will not be a renewal of hostilities.

8 May

Secretary Haig tells the Ambassador that the President's remarks on 7 May were unprepared. Ambassador protests to Haig about the unsatisfactory tone and content of President Reagan's message of 2 May to Latin American Presidents which made no criticism of Argentine invasion and implied that the US regards the Falklands as a colonial issue. Haig accepts the rebuke.

Haig tells Ambassador that General Vernon Walters (a special representative) is being sent to Buenos Aires to explore the mood of the junta. US press carry reports of a briefing by Haig in which he said that the US would continue to support Britain because of historic Anglo-US ties and because of the need to adhere to the principle that aggression should not be rewarded.

9 May

In an interview on US television Argentine Foreign Minister Costa Mendez says that the goal of any UN/Argentine negotiation should be Argentine sovereignty but that Argentina would not require Britain to accept that sovereignty at the beginning of negotiations.

10 May

In a meeting with Secretary Haig, the Ambassador brings him up-to-date on negotiations in New York. Haig describes atmosphere of considerable dissent in Buenos Aires. He also alleges that the Soviet Union may have been involved in the decision to invade the Falkland Islands. In discussion of the possibility of a US security guarantee for the Falklands Haig indicates that it would be difficult for the US to provide such a guarantee.

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11 May

State Department inform the Embassy that Landsat photography of the Falkland Islands took place from 7 to 12 May and that the Argentines obtained the pictures.

Haig tells the Ambassador he hopes Britain will not rush to the Security Council and thinks that the UNSG's talks, however unproductive, should be allowed to run their course. Sir A Parsons comments that Haig can only have received this entirely mistaken impression of our intentions from Mrs Kirkpatrick.

12 May

Mr Pym asks the Ambassador to point out the unhelpful nature of remarks attributed to General Walters in Washington namely that the Falkland Islands crisis was a "conflict of machismos".

James Reston in the New York Times suggests, on basis of a conversation with Haig, that the latter is now more optimistic about a compromise on the Falklands because the fate of Argentine soldiers on the Islands could lead to the downfall of the Argentine Government.

Secretary Haig rings Mr Pym to say that, while New York negotiating efforts are serious, his latest information from the area contradicts what the Argentines are saying publicly. In a separate conversation with the Ambassador, Haig says that the UN Secretary General has spoken to him of a considerable concession by the Argentinians over sovereignty and has asked the US to exercise persuasion on London to make a compromise concession. Haig describes Argentine negotiating tactics: "The more flexible they might be prepared to be on sovereignty, the tougher they would be about the interim authority." Haig expresses horror at General Walters' reported remarks. He also describes General Walters' first discussions with the Argentinians which have not revealed any sign of a breakthrough in their attitude. In discussions on a possible US security guarantee for the Falklands, Haig envisages no difficulty about the supervision of troop withdrawal. He speaks of the possibility of a US presence on the Falklands as part of some UN arrangement.

Assistant Secretary Enders, briefing journalists on discussions between President Reagan and President Figueiredo of Brazil on that day, makes clear US concern at reactions in Latin America to American support for Britain.

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13 May

In Secretary Haig's absence in Europe, Ambassador Kirkpatrick persuades President Reagan to telephone the Prime Minister to urge HMG to show more flexibility. At Haig's request (in a telephone call from Ankara) the Ambassador calls on Judge Clark to seek an explanation and tells him that, contrary to the impression given, the Argentinians have not been forthcoming in New York. Clark expresses President Reagan's concern about the worsening Falkland Islands situation, particularly in its impact on US/Latin American relations. From this and other reports reaching the Embassy, the Ambassador tells London that, while Haig is away, a lot of lesser figures among the Latin lobby in the State Department are trying to get back into the act and that President Figueiredo's visit has had some impact in this sense.

14 May

In a nationally televised press conference, the President says he understands there has been some agreement in negotiations in New York and hopes and prays for a settlement.

General Walters, telling the Ambassador of his visit to Buenos Aires, describes its main purpose as to limit damage to US relations with Latin America and describes the junta as among the most difficult people he has had to deal with.

Ambassador (in Haig's absence) meets Deputy Secretary Stoessel and Under-Secretary Eagleburger at the State Department. Stoessel sets out US recommendations for the UK negotiating position in New York, the essential point being that it should be clear that it is not Britain which is held responsible for any breakdown. During the meeting Haig calls from Ankara to speak to the Ambassador. Stoessel hands over a copy of a very strong and helpful letter sent by Haig to European Community Foreign Ministers urging them to renew their ban on imports from Argentina.

Ambassador leaves for London for weekend consultations on the Falklands (also involving Sir A Parsons) at Chequers.

16 May

Secretary Haig and Mr Pym meet in Luxembourg (scene of NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting). Haig is concerned about developments in Washington in his absence; responds positively to Mr Pym's suggestion that the US pressure Argentina to leave dependencies out of any agreements; is not forthcoming about the security guarantees.

17 May

Mr Pym gives Haig a copy of British draft agreement on Falklands presented to UN Secretary General in New York on that day. Haig describes the text as fair.

/18 May

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18 May

Ambassador calls on Deputy-Secretary Stoessel to discuss text of final British negotiating draft agreement given to the Secretary General on 17 May. Stoessel speculates that when deadline of 19 May for transmission to the Argentines expires the US Government might wish to become active again. Ambassador emphatically discourages notion that Secretary Haig should come forward with another proposal for negotiation on grounds that it is now evident that the Argentines are not prepared to talk seriously.

Ambassador calls on Judge Clark who refers to a possible proposal from Ambassador Kirkpatrick for a negotiating initiative by the President. Ambassador says that there would be no point in a US negotiating initiative at this stage.

19 May

Ambassador sends to Secretary Haig a copy of the Argentine paper, in response to the British proposal of 17 May, making clear that it falls far short of British requirements.

20 May

British Government publishes text of its proposals of 17 May. Haig telephones Ambassador to say that Britain is "well postured" and has played things intelligently and efficiently. Ambassador writes to leading Members of Congress to explain our position.

21 May

British assault on the Falklands begins. Ambassador calls on Haig (after Haig has spoken on the telephone to Mr Pym). Haig says he wishes to keep close to the UK about activities in the Security Council and suggests that any dealings should be carried through him rather than through Ambassador Kirkpatrick. Haig assures the Ambassador that the President is personally strongly behind Britain.

22 May

White House issues statement saying that the US Administration has been intensively involved in the search for peace, emphasising that there will be no involvement of US military personnel in the conflict, that the US will meet its commitment to Britain and that the US position has been to do whatever is possible to advance the chances for a peaceful solution.

Secretary Haig informs the Ambassador that the Argentines are talking of breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States.

/22 May (continued)



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22 May (continued)

Ambassador calls on leading Members of Congress to explain British position.

US press carry reports of the Union flag being hoisted on the Falkland Islands. Washington Post editorial says it is essential and right that the US should be on the British side.

State Department give Embassy text of a draft speech for Mrs Kirkpatrick to make in Security Council debate in New York on the Falklands. Minister (Mr Thomas) expresses anxiety to Under-Secretary Eagleburger that the general thrust of the speech represents a step back towards even-handedness by the United States.

23 May

US press, reflecting Administration briefing, express fears that US relations with Latin America have been adversely affected by American support for Britain.

Secretary Haig, in a nationally televised interview, hopes for renewed negotiations but envisages continued stalemate until there is some change in the military situation.

Ambassador reports to London a private meeting with Haig in which Haig expresses the hope that thought be given to a way of bringing an end to the conflict which will avoid a prolongation of the war and long-term bitterness in Latin America. Ambassador comments that Haig's surprising about-turn appears to reflect his belief (a) that dealing with the Argentine garrison will not bring about an Argentine capitulation or even the end of Argentine air action and (b) that it is in our interests to seize the first moment of high military success to show a readiness to negotiate.

24 May

Secretary Haig, in a meeting with the Ambassador, expresses grave concern about implications of continuation of the dispute both for increased Soviet influence in US relations with Latin America. He suggests a possible plan involving ceasefire and withdrawal, US/Brazilian interim administration and discussions without prejudice regarding the future. Ambassador reports that these ideas would be unacceptable in London. Later in the day Haig telephones in an easier frame of mind saying that the President supports Britain solidly.

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25 May

Secretary Haig, in a message to Mr Pym, says that the US would be prepared to provide a battalion to ensure no violation of any interim agreement on the Falklands preceding a final settlement. He suggests that Britain consider seriously elements of the text put forward by Brazil in New York containing provisions for withdrawal, interim administration and with the addition, Haig suggests, of US and Brazilian peace-keeping forces.

Mr Pym instructs the Ambassador, in reply, to say that the message provides serious food for thought but contains elements which do not chime with the immediate mood in London.

Secretary Haig, in discussion with the Ambassador, realises that Britain will not accept mutual withdrawal but fears that, following the capitulation of the Argentine garrison, Argentina will remain in a state of war over the Falklands. Haig agrees that nothing is likely to be achieved until Britain has reached the highest point of military pressure but argues that we would then face a test of statesmanship: that would be the moment for a magnanimous proposal to offer some way of bringing military activity to an end.

US news agencies report gist of Haig's message to Mr Pym.

US authorities at JFK Airport in New York intercept an Ecuadorian aircraft loaded with military equipment en route from Israel to Ecuador. Aircraft is suspected of carrying arms for Argentina but, after investigation, is released.

26 May

In a message to Secretary Haig, Mr Pym says that people in Britain will no longer accept the idea of an interim administration or mutual withdrawal from the Falklands. He believes the US offer of a battalion could be used at a somewhat later stage.

UN Security Council adopts Security Council Resolution 505 calling on Secretary General to renew his good offices with a view to negotiating a ceasefire.

27 May

Ambassador reports to London on the gap between the mood in London and opinion in the United States and suggests that, to keep the Americans on side, we should be prepared to talk to them informally about our ideas for the future of the Falklands.

US media report dismissive reply by President Galtieri to a friendly National Day message from President Reagan.

At Rio Treaty meeting in Washington Latin American countries launch

/27 May (continued)



27 May (continued)

venomous attacks on the United States. Haig, in determined and detailed speech (greeted in silence) points out that it was Argentina that had committed aggression in the first place.

Ambassador conveys to Haig a message from Mr Pym to the UN Secretary General making clear that Britain could accept a ceasefire provided it was linked inseparably to Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands.

Haig and UN Secretary General speak by telephone. Perez de Cuellar tells Haig he cannot solve the problem given current UK attitude on ceasefire and urges Haig to weigh in with Britain. Haig says he has no intention of doing so.

29 May

Rio Treaty meeting adopts resolution condemning the UK, calling on the US to cease its support for Britain and its sanctions against Argentina and inviting each Rio signatory to assist Argentina.

On instructions from the Prime Minister and Mr Pym the Ambassador tells Haig that Britain is determined to repossess the Falklands, reestablish British administration and thereafter consider the future development of the Falklands. Some kind of international security arrangement involving the Americans would be essential. Haig gives suggestion that we are considering some modified form of independence and suggests the British military administration should in due course give way to a form of local self-government subject to an international umbrella presence (which would also have a small international force) with the umbrella group having responsibility for considering the ultimate status of the Falkland Islands. Haig expresses considerable concern at the apparent hardening of the British attitude and describes his greatest concern as the impact on Central America: "The whole place is in jeopardy". Haig also describes his suspicions of the UN Secretary General.

Later on 29 May Haig gives the Ambassador the text of his ideas stressing that the launching of an initiative should come before the final defeat of the Argentine forces. Haig's plan includes a contact group consisting of the UK, the US, Brazil and Argentina.

31 May

President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher speak by telephone on the Falklands.

/JUNE



1 June

Ambassador calls on Judge Clark at the White House to make clear, at the Prime Minister's request that, having negotiated in good faith for weeks, Britain will not simply pull out of the Islands and make way for a contact group including countries from Latin America. Clark says the President understands the firmness of our position but the President had been concerned by the Prime Minister's remark "We're going it alone". This was not true. The Americans were with us but were concerned about the future.

Mr Pym invites Secretary Haig to stop off in London on his way to Paris on 2 June. Haig subsequently speaks to the Ambassador to say that he understands that it is no good pursuing his ideas. He regrets that he will be unable to visit London.

Before departing for Paris, Haig calls in the Ambassador to ask him to remain in close touch with Under-Secretary Eagleburger about developments at the UN. He makes it clear that he has no confidence in Ambassador Kirkpatrick. Haig believes Britain will win militarily in the near future but is doubtful about how he can bring the conflict to an end.

Newsweek reports a slanging match between Haig and Mrs Kirkpatrick over the Falklands in which she depicts Haig and his aides as "amateurs ... Brits in American clothing".

Washington Post carries handwringing editorial: "Must the United States stand by silently while the British mop up, at no small additional cost to themselves, the Argentine defenders of Port Stanley?"

2 June

Ambassador conveys message to President Reagan and Secretary Haig expressing appreciation for US support. Haig tells Ambassador of his disquiet about reports in the UK press alleging that he is "wet".

President and Mrs Reagan, with Secretary and Mrs Haig, leave US for Paris to attend Versailles Economic Summit.

In interview given to European journalists President Reagan says "I know that both sides have lost men, but England responded to a threat that all of us must oppose."

/2 June (continued)



2 June (continued)

Ambassador and Lady Henderson leave for London in preparation for President Reagan's visit.

3 June

Ambassador, in London, discusses Falklands with Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

4 June

US joins UK in vetoing UN Security Council Resolution on the Falklands. Instructions from Secretary Haig to abstain arrive too late but Mrs Kirkpatrick says, on instructions, that she would have changed the US vote had that been allowed under the rules.

President Reagan holds private talks with Prime Minister about Falkland Islands in Paris.

7 June

Assistant-Secretary Enders telephones Charge d'Affairs (Mr Thomas) to suggest that he might float Secretary Haig's earlier ideas with the Argentine Ambassador in Washington. Mr Thomas says only option open to Argentina is either military defeat or ceasefire negotiated between the two commanders with a fixed timeframe for withdrawal.

7-9 June

President and Mrs Reagan pay an official visit to London.

8 June

Argentina bombs Liberian registered tanker on lease to a US company.

President Reagan, in an address to Members of both Houses of Parliament in London, says that Britain's young men fighting for the Falklands "aren't fighting for mere real estate. They fight for a cause - for the belief that armed aggression must not be allowed to succeed and the people must participate in the decisions of government under the rule of law."

Secretary Haig and Mr Pym hold bilateral talks in London.

/9 June



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9 June

President Reagan and the Prime Minister hold a one and a half hour working breakfast in London.

13 June

In television interview, Secretary Haig says that the Falklands problem will ultimately have to be solved in the context of the traditional friendships between the US, UK and Latin America and in a way which ensures stability and justice.

14 June

In background briefing the Embassy discounts press reports that Britain has approached the US for the loan of AWACS aerial reconnaissance aircraft.

Ambassador returns to London following President Reagan's visit.

Argentine garrison on the Falkland Islands surrenders.

15 June

White House issues a statement welcoming the ceasefire, hoping that the loss of life which has occurred can now be brought to an end and concluding that the US "continues to stand ready to assist in any way it can to help resolve this conflict".

15-16 June

US Ambassador in Buenos Aires, at British request, urges Argentine junta to declare that hostilities have ceased.

18 June

Under-Secretary Eagleburger informs the Embassy of the proposition put to Haig by the UN Secretary General envisaging Anglo-Argentine negotiations under Paragraph 3 of Security Council Resolution 502. Ambassador says there is no future in the Secretary General trying to pursue this thought since things have changed fundamentally. Eagleburger says this is Haig's view also.

/23 June

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23 June

Prime Minister visits Washington for talks with President Reagan. No points of disagreement between Britain and the United States on the Falklands.

29 June

Haig (still Secretary despite his resignation of 25 June) telephones Ambassador to say that the new Argentine President has made an approach to the US Government asking for help in getting Argentine prisoners on the Falklands released. Haig believes there is a danger of UK being saddled with a long-term problem and is concerned about the need to get back to normal relations with Argentina.

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