

SECRET

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION) :
0730 HOURS, 15 JUNE 1982

1. During the evening of 14 June press reports from Buenos Aires spoke of talks between the Commander of the Argentine garrison at Port Stanley, General Menendez, and the Commander of the British land forces. These were followed by reports that an agreement had been signed and that Menendez would be flying to Buenos Aires for discussions with the Junta: at 1950Z an Argentine military communiqué said that a de facto ceasefire existed at Port Stanley.

2. At about 1800Z the MOD received a signal from the Commander Land Forces saying that 3 Commando Brigade had reached the outskirts of Port Stanley. It was clear that many Argentines were not prepared to fight. At 1505Z the Argentine garrison indicated its willingness to talk. At 1530Z British troops were ordered only to fire in self-defence. At 1550Z the white flag was reported over Port Stanley. Commander Land Forces said that negotiations with the Argentine garrison were at an early stage.

3. At 2115Z the Prime Minister announced to the House of Commons that following successful British attacks and the crumbling of Argentine resistance, talks were in progress between General Menendez and the Deputy Commander of Land Forces, Brigadier Waters, about the surrender of the Argentine forces on East and West Falkland.

4. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in Riyadh and posts with a direct interest have been sent copies of the Prime Minister's statement and Mr Foot's response. UKMIS New York have informed the UN Secretary-General. UKMIS Geneva will keep the ICRC in the picture.

A: (UKMIS New
York telno.
997 to FCO)

5. In a signal at 0120Z on 15 June the Land Forces Commander informed the MOD that General Menendez had surrendered all the Argentine armed forces in East and West Falkland. It is not yet clear to what extent the Junta endorse this decision and thus how it affects other Argentine military operations.

B: (CT4 317.1
Signal No.
150120Z)

6. The Task Force also report that Argentine prisoners will number some 14,800 (11,000 Stanley, 2,000 West Falkland, 1,000 Port Fitzroy, 800 Port Salvador). The Argentines have food for 3-4 days but in view of limited tentage and poor weather, various proposals are made by the Task Force for the immediate repatriation of PoWs. The recommended method of repatriation is by means of 'Canberra' directly from Port Stanley to Argentina.

C: (CTG 317.1
Signal No.
050015Z)

D: (CTG 317.8
Signal No.
050058Z)

7. The Prime Minister has agreed that the signal referred to in paragraph 5 may be used as a public statement. MOD are drafting a paper on the question of PoWs for the OD(SA) meeting at 0930.

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8. The most immediate decision to be taken is how to repatriate Argentine POWs (bearing in mind that the Argentine Government have yet to confirm the surrender). The options would be:

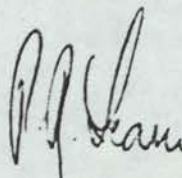
- (a) by British ships to Argentine or neutral ports;
- (b) by Argentine ships;
- (c) by neutral ships.

9. The question of what POWs should be retained also needs to be considered.

10. Other questions are:

- (a) How to get the ICRC involved rapidly;
- (b) How to deal with the expected pressures for press visits.

11. Sir A Parsons informed the UN Secretary General last night of developments at that time. But he may need further instructions today on the formal position which we would wish to take at the UN.



P R Fearn
Emergency Unit

15 June 1982