

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30/39)

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS

MR GERRARD
MR FRIGET
~~MR ADAMS~~ Long N. Glennox.
MR URE
MR GILMORE

ED/S AND (FCO DIST + A/D. F/I)
E/DEF D
E/NEWS D
E/ORD

PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS 760
~~RECORDING CLERK~~
Hy 8/9

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLER)
MR HAWTHIN) TREASURY
MR PERETZ)
MR ILETT)
MR MCINTYRE)

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) B/EX

DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SAFT/DIO " "

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

**IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY**

UNCLASSIFIED
FM CANBERRA 050634Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 200 OF 05 MAY 1982

FALKLAND ISLANDS : AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER
1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER IN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT AT 5 AM YOUR TIME TODAY 5 MAY.
"MR LIONEL BOWEN (DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION):
I REFER THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE NEWS OF THE HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE SUSTAINED BY BOTH GREAT BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA IN THE MILITARY ACTION TAKING PLACE NEAR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I ASK THE HON GENTLEMAN: IN VIEW OF THE FACT THERE HAS BEEN NO STATEMENT TO THIS HOUSE, HAS HE INITIATED ANY MATTER AT ALL BY WAY OF A PERSONAL DISCUSSION OR DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM? DOES HE SUPPORT THE IRISH GOVT'S INITIATIVE, WHICH CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO CEASE HOSTILITIES FORTHWITH AND BEGIN TALKS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, AND FURTHER THE LIFTING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AS THEY ARE NO LONGER DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATE?"

AGAINST ARGENTINA BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AS THEY ARE NO LONGER DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATE?

MR MALCOLM FRASER: I THINK ALL HON MEMS OF THE HOUSE WILL BE CONCERNED AT THE LOSS OF LIFE THAT HAS OCCURRED WITH THE LOSS OF A MAJOR SHIP OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND A SIGNIFICANT SHIP OF THE BRITISH NAVY. IT WOULD BE THE WISH AND THE HOPE OF ALL HON MEMS THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED BY NEGOTIATION. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OUR HOPE THAT THE SITUATION NEVER GOT TO THE POINT OF MILITARY CONFLICT. HAVING SAID THAT, IT IS HARD TO GET AWAY FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH ARGENTINA CAPTURED THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BY UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION.

THE TALKS THAT WERE PROCEEDING HAD BROKEN OFF. THE PROBLEM HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT HOW A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF FALKLAND ISLANDERS ARE TO BE ALLOWED TO LEAD OUT THEIR LIVES.

BUT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF THEM DOES NOT DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF THEIR CAPACITY TO CHOOSE THE KIND OF LIFE THEY WANT AND THE KIND OF GOVT THEY WANT.

DEMOCRACY, WHETHER IT BE FOR ONE PERSON, 10 PEOPLE, 2,000 PEOPLE OR 100 MILLION PEOPLE IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AFFECTED. THE ARGENTINIAN ACTION WAS IN DEFIANCE OF EVERYTHING THAT ALL HON MEMS HERE WOULD BELIEVE IN IN RELATION TO THAT RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 502, HAS CALLED FOR THE MATTER TO BE RESOLVED IN AN APPROPRIATE WAY. ARGENTINA, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HAS SAID THAT IT ACCEPTS THAT RESOLUTION BUT AT THE SAME TIME, OR IN THE SAME BREATH, IT SAID THAT ITS SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE RECOGNISED. THAT, OF COURSE, DENIES THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS AND THEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM AROUND THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

WE HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVT THROUGHOUT THIS MATTER. WE HAVE BEEN CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HON MEMS WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT A VERY LARGE PART OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, BOTH IN THE CABINET ROOM WITH A NUMBER OF US AND A SMALLER GROUP WITH VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH, RELATED TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE NOTE THAT THE US STAYED, IN A SENSE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS DISPUTE FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME, SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE AND USING ALL ITS INFLUENCE WHICH IS UNDOUBTED WITH THE UK AND ALSO NOT INCONSIDERABLE WITH ARGENTINA, AS A SOUTH AMERICAN STATE IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. WE WOULD ALL BE EQUALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE VERY CONSIDERABLE

IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.
I WOULD ALL BE EQUALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE VERY CONSIDERABLE
EFFORTS OF MR HAIG - WHICH I THINK DESERVE CONSIDERABLE PRAISE
IN SPITE OF THE FACT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL - TO ACHIEVE
A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FAILED. ONCE IT WAS PLAIN THAT THE
NEGOTIATIONS FAILED AND THAT HOSTILITIES WOULD BEGIN, IT WOULD
NOT SURPRISE HON MEMS OF THIS HOUSE TO KNOW THAT THE US FELT
AT THAT POINT IT SHOULD MAKE ITS OWN VIEW VERY PLAIN ABOUT WHERE
JUSTICE LIES IN THIS DISPUTE. IT MADE IT PERFECTLY PLAIN TO ARGEN-
TINA AND TO BRITAIN THAT ITS SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT WERE WITH
THE UK. THIS IS THE POSITION WE ARE IN.

I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT IF THERE WERE A CAPACITY FOR A
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IT COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE GOOD
AUSPICES OF THE UNITED STATES. THAT MAY STILL BE THE WAY IT WILL
GO BECAUSE THE US WOULD HAVE INFLUENCE WITH BOTH PARTIES. IF
SOME USEFUL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN THROUGH THE UN, OBVIOUSLY THE
GOVT WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE THAT VERY CLOSELY INDEED, BUT WE NEED
TO REMEMBER THAT ALREADY THERE IS ONE RESOLUTION FROM THE U. N. .
IT IS THE DEFIANCE OF THAT RESOLUTION BY ARGENTINA WHICH HAS
LED TO THE OPENING OF ACTIVE CONFLICT. I DO NOT THINK ANY HON MEM
OF THIS HOUSE WOULD WANT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF
THIS OCCASION AND THE TRAGEDY OF LOSS OF LIFE THAT HAS OCCURRED
OVER A MATTER THAT OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF BEING RESOLVED BY
NEGOTIATION. BUT HAVING SAID ALL OF THAT - I HOPE WITH A
VERY REAL SENSE OF MODERATION SO FAR AS THE GOVT IS CONCERNED -
WE WOULD WANT TO MAINTAIN, AND DO MAINTAIN, SUPPORT FOR THE UK
IN HER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS.
.ENDS

MASON

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