

CHRONOLOGY

We told the Lobby that there had been a meeting of Ministers just before the 6 p.m. press conference given by Lord Carrington and Mr. Nott. Present:

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| Foreign Secretary | Prime Minister | Lord Privy Seal |
| S/S for Defence   |                | Chief Whip      |
| Lord President    |                |                 |

The Queen's Private Secretary, Philip Moore, was also present.

The UK had, at the same time, made a second appeal to the UN Security Council, where the British Ambassador had introduced a resolution and the Argentinian Ambassador had also spoken. The Security Council had adjourned its discussion after one hour. We did not know the intention of the President of the Security Council with regard to further consideration of the matter.

Sir Michael Palliser, Permanent Secretary, FCO, had seen the Argentinian chargé d'affaires and informed him of the breaking off of diplomatic relations, giving him and his staff four working days in which to leave the UK. We expected an Argentinian interests section to remain to look after the 3-4000 Argentinians resident in the UK; equally, we expected a friendly patron in Buenos Aires to house a British interests section in their Embassy to care for the 17,000 British residents in Argentina.

Parliament would resume at 11 a.m. Saturday for three hours of debate. The Prime Minister and Mr. Nott would speak in the Commons debate, Lord Carrington and (possibly) Lord Trefgarne *in the Lords*. Lord Carrington would not be coming to the Bar of the Commons.

Cabinet had met again at 7.30 p.m. for 1 hour 5 minutes. All present except the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Energy, Minister of Agriculture and the Chief Secretary. Service chiefs also attended. It was a stock-taking meeting.

The EC talks on the mandate had been postponed by the Presidency. Mr. Hurd was to have represented Lord Carrington. We thought the talks might be reconvened early next week.

The Prime Minister was now working on tomorrow's speech. There were no plans for any further meetings of Ministers before the Debate.

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In answer to questions, we said we had/no direct communication with the Falklands; it was for the Argentinians to decide if the British Ambassador must leave; it was rubbish to suggest that Mr. Nott's resignation had been offered or was expected; the Prime Minister had not spoken to President Reagan but the two countries were in touch. Reagan had spoken to Galtieri. We could not say, at this stage, when we knew definitely that the invasion had taken place or where the British marines in the Falklands were deployed; we could see no parallel with Suez, except on steaming times; we were not prepared to talk about troop movements; the Prime Minister's mood was one of serious concern at a very grave situation; we had had to try diplomatic

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measures first; the only alternative would have been to station a large fleet there for the past 15 years.

To suggestions that the Opposition were saying that they had taken the February warnings seriously, we replied that they would say that, wouldn't they? It was not possible to protect the Falklands at a moment's notice.

We said we would hold another Lobby after the two opening speeches in the Commons on Saturday morning.

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