

TALKS CONTENT

We drew attention to the brief statements already made by Secretary of State Haig and Mr Pym (see Bulletin 101) and indicated that there was little we could add. There had been full discussions and certain ideas had been put forward but substantial difficulties remained. Time was indeed running short and Secretary of State Haig had announced his intention of returning to Buenos Aires. Meanwhile the task force remained on course and the MEZ remained in force.

We could not offer guidance on the details of the talks. The UK position was firmly based on Security Council resolution 502 which called for the full withdrawal of Argentine forces and a diplomatic solution.

The talks were centred on American proposals put forward after their discussions with the Argentines. Some points had been agreed but substantial difficulties remained. Secretary of State Haig would now be returning to Buenos Aires with British views clear in his mind.

It would not be true to say that the American proposals fell short of resolution 502. What was being talked about was the way in which the Security Council resolution might be implemented.

Time was running short in that as the task force neared the Falklands the possibility of a military clash obviously became greater.

HAIG SHUTTLE CONTINUES?

We did not know if Mr Haig would return from Buenos Aires to London. This could not be ruled out.

OTHER DIPLOMATIC MOVES

It was unlikely that any further diplomatic moves would be made outside of the Haig shuttle. Neither a special UK envoy to Argentine or an Argentinian envoy to London seemed on the cards.

PERUVIAN CEASE-FIRE

The UK was considering the Peruvian cease-fire proposal and a reply would be given in due course. Meanwhile the MEZ remained in force.

SHAPE OF THE TALKS

We indicated that there had been a session of talks in the morning, a working lunch and a session in the afternoon. Inbetween the American group and British Ministers had held separate discussions without leaving No 10.

PB