

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.45 AM date: 13.4.82

There had been a round of talks this morning. Secretary of State Haig came in shortly after 9 o'clock for talks lasting just under 1½ hours. He left at 10.40, we thought for the US Embassy, saying that he might have something to say later. He had been in touch with Buenos Aires and came in to explain the position. We understood that the problem was in Buenos Aires. We were unable to envisage where he would go next.

We continued to refuse to be drawn on any substance of the ideas being discussed. We suggested, however, that the ideas in some of today's papers about Britain rejecting US proposals did not get the right emphasis. Certainly it would appear that the situation now was more difficult if anything than at the end of the talks yesterday.

We did not encourage the idea that the Peruvian 72-hour truce proposal was likely to be an important runner in the present discussions. We had nothing to add on the position of Argentine ships. The Ministry of Defence were confirming that to the best of their knowledge all but two Argentine ships were in port. There was no question at present of our task force turning round and the MEZ remained in force.

The Prime Minister continued talks for about an hour with Mr Pym and Mr Nott after Mr Haig's departure. A full Cabinet meeting was planned for tomorrow morning. We were not able to confirm details of the nature of tomorrow's debate although we agreed with the suggestion that the Prime Minister was likely to take part.

We arranged a further briefing for 4 pm in the afternoon.

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