

19 April 1982

EALKLAND ISLANDS: 19 APRIL

1. Mr Pym will be making a statement in the House of Commons this afternoon. Cannot anticipate report to Parliament.
2. Mr Haig's talks in Buenos Aires resume today. We strongly support his efforts and will continue to cooperate fully with them.
3. He will be welcome in London if he decides that it would be useful to come.
4. Unthinkable
The Government's objectives remain as stated in Parliament: Argentine withdrawal, the restoration of British Administration, and a negotiated settlement which takes full account of the wishes of the Islanders.
5. The vice is tightening. The Task Force is on course and on time. Economic measures taking effect. Norway announces import ban today. Argentine knows that we shall not shrink; but the Government is determined to work for a peaceful solution if it is humanly obtainable.
6. Action in the UN? This is not excluded. The implementation of Security Council Resolution 502 remains our first objective and nothing should be done to cut across Haig.
7. If Haig fails? No service to the cause of peace to talk about failure. We want his talks to succeed, but it is not a stark alternative between the success of Haig's mission and war. We shall continue to be both determined and resourceful.
8. US attitude? Fully understand the unique position which derives from the Haig mission. After the Haig mission, that position will cease to be unique. The world's greatest democracy cannot be neutral as between democracy and dictatorship.
9. Versions of the proposals under negotiation? We remain absolutely unwilling to divulge details.
10. Why? Because we want the talks to succeed. The versions in the press and satisfactorily inconsistent.