

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

FALKLAND ISLANDS : 4 MAY

On the Record

Following Mr Pym's visits to Washington and New York over the weekend, the door is ~~wide~~ open, to a diplomatic settlement ^{in accordance with our principles} and contacts continue, both with the United States and with the UN Secretary-General.

Statements in the House this afternoon : Cannot anticipate.

Unattributable

Washington : 'Last week I came here to see Mr Haig in his role as mediator. Today I have come back to consult him as an ally' (Washington Press Conference 2 May).

An opportunity to take stock together in the new circumstances:

(a) exchange of views on the military situation and on the logistic and back-up support offered by the Americans. 'I have not come here with a shopping list . . . I have not made any specific requests of the United States'

Follow up by officials;

(b) Economic : economic measures already announced are tangible sign of American support with severe impact on Argentina. Further US measures possible 'it may very well be that the United States will take further economic measures';

(c) Diplomatic : they discussed a range of ideas for carrying ^{forward} ~~an official~~ the diplomatic dialogue. Argentine rejection of US proposals has ^{interrupted} ~~brought to an end~~ Mr Haig's mediation but that does not end the search for a diplomatic solution either for us or for the Americans. Pym at New York press conference : 'We discussed again

ossible ideas. At the end of his long shuttle he came out with proposals of his own which the Argentines turned down. As far as I was concerned this was certainly not the end of his diplomatic effort and Mr Haig doesn't see it like that either. We discussed yesterday, in the new context, what other possibilities there might be. There was a range of suggestions' - including some of Peruvian origin which the Argentines seem for the moment to have rejected but neither Mr Haig nor we have given up the diplomatic effort.

now publicly rejected.

United Nations : both with Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar and Mr Ling Qiang, President of the Security Council, Mr Pym 'explored various ideas as to how the United Nations might be able to help in one or another in the present dispute in the South Atlantic . . . no particularly specific ideas at the moment, but a number of suggestions and ideas. he [the Secretary-General] did put forward which of course I will think about and I shared with him some of the possibilities as I viewed them. The exploration was thorough and careful and it was a very useful discussion from our point of view. . . I am certainly not closing the door to any diplomatic action'

Mr Pym also explained with firmness and clarity the essentials of the British position:

- (a) Argentina must withdraw in accordance with SCR 502;
- (b) the ultimate question of sovereignty must not be pre-judged - otherwise the aggressor would be rewarded and self-determination ignored.

A further role for the UN is by no means excluded. At the same time, it is hard to see that any alternative mediator could be better placed than Haig had been.

What the Argentines have been doing is not a process of decolonisation, its a process of recolonisation. They have actually invaded a country in order to take it over for themselves' (UN Press Conference).

'We intend to succeed, if possible by a negotiated settlement, but, if not, by force, however unwelcome. When we succeed, the world will be a safer place. (UN Press Conference).

'I don't mind what format is used, what mechanism might be devised, whatever it is that produces the desired result, let's consider it.' (UN Press Conference)

'I don't mind what happens to the Argentine Government, whether they fall, whether there is another one, whether they change two or three times, I don't mind. They have no right to be there (ie/ⁱⁿthe Falkland Islands'. (UN Press Conference)