

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

FALKLAND ISLANDS: 12 MAY 1982

On the Record

1. 'It remains the Government's highest priority to achieve an early negotiated settlement if that is humanly possible'. (Pym, House of Commons, 7 May).
2. We are continuing to work with maximum intensity at the United Nations.
3. There have been some developments overnight which, on the face of it, hold some promise of progress.
4. But there are a host of difficult and detailed problems remaining and it is impossible to predict the outcome.
5. Sir A Parsons expects to meet the Secretary-General again today.
6. Q: Have the Argentines conceded on 'pre-judgement'?  
A: You must ask the Argentines what their position is. We for our part are not willing to disclose details of confidential negotiations.
7. All other supplementaries: nothing to add.

Unattributable

8. The Argentine contribution last night was encouraging as far as it went. But it is incomplete, and there are public statements which cast doubt on it. It will not be possible to form a view on the prospect at New York unless and until we have the outline of a package as a whole.
9. The discussions with the Secretary-General have now entered a phase of detailed negotiation.

10.           The two crucial points for us remain the same: withdrawal goes with ceasefire; and no pre-judgement of the eventual negotiation. But there are more ways of pre-judging a negotiation than public proclamation or the formal terms of reference. The package under negotiation in New York will have to be judged as a whole before we can tell whether the provisions of SCR 502 and the principle of self-determination are adequately respected.

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