

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4,30

date: 15,6.82

repeated this morning's lobby.

## POWs

We said OD(SA) were faced this morning with the formidable problem of making arrangements for 15,000 Argentine POWs, a much higher number than previously estimated. The prisoners have very limited food and water supplies with little shelter and are in poor physical condition. We reminded the lobby that we were only required to return them once there was a cessation of hostilities. We said the Prime Minister had mentioned that officers and commanders might be held back and said this might include Menendez.

We could give no details of when tent supplies might be made available. We said the US intend to offer help on supplies but we recognised their difficulties when they had no immediate presence on the Island. Once hostilities had ceased supply arrangements should improve.

We had not heard from the Swiss Embassy whether the UK Commanders' message had been replied to by the Argentines. We said Menendez was still on the Island and there was no truth in the rumour that he was seeking a 'safe passage'.

## GOVERNOR

We drew the lobby's attention to the Prime Minister's carefully chosen words on Mr Hunt's role. We believed an Order in Council would be made to define his role and expected him to return to the Islands within a few days.

## INQUIRY

We expected the inquiry would need to be started very soon. The exact formula was being considered urgently but no decision had yet been made. We guided them that the inquiry group of possibly less than 6 persons, would include Privy Councillors, but gave no guidance on access to official papers and witnesses.

## FUTURE OF ISLANDERS

We said the Islanders would need time to recuperate before deciding on their future and did not expect a referendum to be held. We said the PM was looking for a form of self government with the protection of security guarantees and suggested any form of independence could be ruled out.

## CIVILIANS

We said interim arrangements are being made to assist the Islanders through the Royal Navy on the West Falklands and the army on the East Falklands.

## VISIT TO FALKLANDS

We ruled out the visit by the PM in the short term.

## EC SANCTIONS

We understood 'tape' reports were saying that sanctions were still imposed but expected the matter to be raised formally at next Sunday's Foreign Affairs Council.

## UN VISIT

We said the Prime Minister still intended to speak at the UN Special Session on Disarmament in New York and would probably decide shortly on the timing of her departure.