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ABR07 – GOVERNOR TALKS WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS (fco 7/4490)

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This spells Trouble -
JH

CONFIDENTIAL

Secretary of State (52)

*I have asked for
supplementaries to cover
these, altho' they are
more MOD points in
fact.*
JH

Private Secretary

FALKLANDS: GOVERNOR'S TALK WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS *JH*

1. Mr Hunt told me this morning of his talk yesterday evening with Mr Foot and Mr Healey. There were two points on which they had pressed him and about which he thinks they may try to make some running in the debate today.
2. They had asked him why he had not blown up the airport runway and he had said that they had no demolition equipment to do so. Mr Healey had commented that this was a scandal. Mr Hunt commented to me that the marines had never had demolition equipment for destroying the airfield because it had not been envisaged that we would be trying to recapture the Islands ourselves.
3. Mr Healey also expressed surprise that the Governor had been dependent on commercial radio links with the outside world. Mr Hunt had pointed out to him that Cable & Wireless had a powerful transmitter and were entirely at his disposal for a 24-hour service if need be. The Governor went on to comment to me (and he was not clear whether this had been mentioned to Mr Healey) that the marines had asked the MOD for a satellite ground station at various times over the past two years and had been told that this could not be provided for financial reasons.

*my or
trunk*

Burg

J B Ure

Por 84.

7 April 1982

cc:

- PS/Mr Hurd
- PS/PUS
- Mr Gillmore
- Mr Fearn, Emergency Unit
- Mr Weston, Defence Department
- Planning Staff
- News Department

Mr Ure

*As you know, both
points were ^{raised} in the
debate by Mr Healey.*

JH 84.

<i>AHQ 050/5</i>			
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