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Se refiere a:

ABR07 - SEALED ORDERS IN THE EVENT OF AN ARGENTINE INVASION (fco 7/4490)

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(49)

7 April 1982

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DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
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C Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what was the substance of the sealed orders held by the Governor of the Falkland Islands to be opened in the event of an Argentine invasion.

No W138

MR FRANCIS PYM

The Governor was given instructions to make his dispositions as he thought fit to resist an invasion. As Commander—in—Chief he was given discretion to carry on resistance for as long as he considered to be in the interest of the Falkland Islanders. The Marines resisted and repulsed an attempt to seize Government House. There were casualties on the Argentine side. The order to cease fire was only given when the defenders were surrounded by overwhelming odds and further resistance would have caused needless loss of life to both the civilian and military population.

by ce of the agreement between the Minister of State d his Argentine counterpart reached at the negotiations in New York in March and to which his predecessor referred in his speech in the House of Lords on 3 April.

Mr. Pym: At the New York talks the two sides considered in detail an Argentine proposal on procedures, including the setting up of a negotiating commission at ministerial level, for a more rapid tempo to negotiations on the dispute. We agreed to consider this proposal and to give a reply to the Argentine Government.

Mr. Alan Clark asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the substance of the sealed orders held by the governor of the Falkland Islands to be opened in the event of an Argentine invasion.

Mr. Pym: The governor was given instructions to make his dispositions as he thought fit to resist an invasion. As commander-in-chief he was given discretion to carry on resistance for as long as he considered to be in the interest of the Falkland Islanders. The Marines resisted and repulsed an attempt to seize Government House. There were casualties on the Argentine side. The order to cease fire was only given when the defenders were surrounded by overwhelming odds and further resistance would have caused needless loss of life to both the civilian and military population.

Mr. Alan Clark asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what exchanges, including those at an informal level, have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Argentine since the invasion of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Pym: Following the severance of diplomatic relations, British interests in Argentina are represented by the Swiss embassy, which is in touch with the Argentine authorities as necessary on our behalf. In London the Brazilians are the protecting power for the Argentines. There have been no exchanges of substance between ourselves and the Argentines since the breaking of diplomatic relations, although we have been in touch about arrangements for respective embassy staff.

Mr. David Young asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are in the Falkland Islands; and what steps are proposed to ensure their safety.

Mr. Pyme: The latest Falkland Islands' census showed 1,723 British nationals and Commonwealth citizens resident in the islands. The safety of the Islanders is of the highest priority to the British Government and all possible steps will be taken to assure their protection.

Mr. Dubs asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many residents of the Falkland Islands have the right of abode in the United Kingdom under the Immigration Act 1971.

Mr. Pym: Of the 1,800 residents of the Falkland Islands, about 1,400 have the right of abode in the United Kingdom. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has given an assurance that no Falkland Islander, whether he has the right of abode or not, will have any difficulty over admission to this country.

CIVIL SERVICE

Efficiency

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Minister for the Civil Service if he has been able to quantify the improvement in Civil Service efficiency since 1979.

Mr. Hayhoe: Yes, wherever possible. Examples were given in the White Paper "Efficiency in the Civil Service"—Cmnd. 8293—and, as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on January 28—[Vol. 16, c. 400]—savings from firm decisions on the programme of scrutinies introduced by Sir Derek Rayner have so far amounted to £130 million a year and £28 million once-forall. We are also particularly concerned to remove underlying obstacles to efficiency by means of the programme of lasting reforms.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ca. 349

School Meals

VOL 2

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what proportion of children entitled to free school meals do not claim; and how much revenue is saved as a consequence.

Dr. Boyson: Information is not available on the takeup rate of this benefit.

Micros in Schools (Training)

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science (1) how many teachers received inservice training into the use of micros in schools in 1981; and how many he estimates will do so in 1982 and subsequent years;

(2) if he is satisfied that there are sufficient teaching staff trained in information technology; and whether steps are at present being taken to encourage further training.

Dr. Boyson: It is estimated that some 3,000 teachers attended short pilot courses of in-service training supported by the micro electronics education programme-MEP-during the financial year 1981-82. In each of the following years-1982-83 1983-84-11,000 teachers are likely to benefit from similar MEP schemes. Comprehesive information about the training arrangements made by local education authorities independently of the MEP is not centrally available, but the number of teachers receiving some form of training is likely to increase steadily as more schools purchase microcomputers subsidised by the Department of Industry. In 1981-82 at least two teachers from 1,500 schools received some training as a condition of participation in the micros in schools scheme, and this number is likely to be exceeded in 1982-83. Longer inservice training courses in polytechnics, colleges of higher education and universities, concerned with information technology and/or computer applications in schools, provided places for some 1,300 teachers in 1981-82; and a further 100 teachers attended DES short courses organised by Her Majesty's inspectorate. It is likely that the demand for such courses will increase, and, although my right hon. Friend has at present no plans to earmark additional resources, there is evidence that in-service