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14/6

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

FALKLAND ISLANDS: 14 JUNE

Return of the Governor

1. The position is precisely as stated by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on **27 MAY** that no decision has yet been taken.

2. Pym on ITN, 11 June: 'We are indeed talking about the restoration of British Administration. We have taken no decision about the Governor himself and his return. Clearly that is a possibility, but there are other possibilities too . . . You cannot take a final decision about it until we know the exact circumstances in which the Islands are repossessed.'

POWs as a bargaining counter

3. Clearly we wish to ensure that the repossession of the Islands is followed by a genuine cessation of hostilities. Our obligation under the Geneva Convention is to repatriate all prisoners of war at the cessation of hostilities, if not before. That obligation will be honoured.

Self-Government

4. The intention is that repossession should be followed by the re-establishment of British Administration (in whatever form) - free democratic institutions - and a period of rehabilitation and reconstruction. We wish to make possible self-determination ~~for~~ the Islands.

5. Since we cannot consult the Islanders now, no decisions have been taken. But a larger measure of self-government for the Islanders is one among a number of possibilities under consideration. [Independence; Trusteeship; etc have not been totally excluded.]

Pressure from Partners and Allies

6. Partners and Allies are staunch in their support for the action necessary to repossess the Islands and restore British Administration. Noone is asking us to desist.

7. Prime Minister on NBC on 9 June:

Q: Was there any suggestion at all from the American side that you should forestall a military battle for Stanley because it might be too costly in political terms . . . ?

A: None.

Q: No suggestion whatsoever?

A: None.

The Longer Term

8. In the longer term we shall seek to ensure the development and the security of the Islands with the help of other countries in the region.

9. Pym, ITN, 11 June: 'It would be in the interests of the Islanders for their prosperity and their future if we could establish a broader-based international arrangement involving other countries. I think that might give them greater security and that I shall be trying to achieve.'

Role for Argentina?

10. In the light of what has happened and is still happening on the Islanders, we cannot envisage any role for Argentina in the Islands in the short term.

11. Pym, ITN, 11 June: 'It would not be possible for us to contemplate any Argentine involvement on the Islands, at any rate for the time being. Whether, in due course, that will be appropriate remains to be seen, but immediately it is not practical and the Americans understand that perfectly well.'

12. In the longer term we certainly envisage the Islands fitting in to a coherent regional context.

13. Prime Minister, NBC, 9 June: 'In the long run you will need the cooperation of the Argentines. That does not necessarily mean anything with sovereignty. After all, there are many international business organisations and arrangements that do not imply having an interest in sovereignty or in someone else's territory.'

ICRC Neutralised Zone

14. We have for some weeks been pressing the Argentine authorities to make proper arrangements for the safety ~~of~~^{of} civilians. We have agreed unreservedly to the establishment of a neutralised zone at Port Stanley under the supervision of the ICRC. We understand that the Argentine authorities have now also agreed. We for our part shall be respecting it forthwith.

15. We understand that an ICRC representative was in Stanley briefly 10 to 11 June and that an ICRC team is shortly to be established in the zone.

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14 June 1982