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10MAY82 – HOC. Exposición de Pym ante la House of Commons.

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11 MAY 1982

(38)

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Following is a summary record of the Secretary of State's appearance before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on 10 May.

Paragraphs marked with a star record that part of the discussion which was conducted in closed session (i.e. without the press present).

British Strategy

** The Diplomatic effort is being pursued with unabated intensity at the United Nations. The military deployment continued in exercise of our right of self defence with the minimum use of force. HMG would not shrink from any decisions which might be necessary. Economic pressures had increased the difficulties of the Argentine economy. Mr Pym was encouraged by the excellent discussion he had had with his Community Partners at the weekend. He had not sought decisions on extending sanctions, but the Community was very supportive. Events were entering a critical phase. He could not predict the outcome, but pledged to persist in the search for a negotiated settlement so long as there was the remotest chance of success.

Community Measures

In response to questions, Mr Pym stressed his appreciation of Community support and solidarity. Some had expressed reservations but in general there was very strong support and decisions would be taken by the end of the week. He agreed that the Council of Europe was also important and denied that any Community Partner was seeking to blackmail Britain by linking sanctions with farm prices. He was confident in the light of the weekend discussion that sanctions would be renewed.