



Junta Militar

COMISION EVALUACION CONFLICTO
ATLANTICO SUR

ANEXO N°IV.../6.....

EXPRESIONES DEL SEÑOR LUCE EN EL PARLAMENTO BRITANICO EL 23 DE

MARZO DE 1982

FOJAS 503 **a** 505

ORIGEN INFORME EX-COMANDANTES

REFERENCIAS CM III/50/83



654 'URGENTE'

'THE TIMES' EN SECCION NOTICIAS PARLAMENTARIAS BAJO TITULO 'LALAGHAN WARNING ON SOUTH GEORGIA' REPRODUCE DECLARACION MI NISTRO ESTADO LUCE TRASMIIDA MI 628 Y DEBATE PARLAMENTARIO POSTERIOR, QUE TRANSCRIBO A CONTINUACION:

'MR. DENIS HEALEY, CHIEF OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS (LEEDS, EAST, LAB.)

IS NOT ODD THAT MR. LUCE DID NOT REFER TO THE ARGENTINE PARTY PLANTING THE ARGENTINE FLAG ON THE ISLAND?

AFTER HIS TALKS WITH THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK RECENTLY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT UNLES GOT A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT IT WOULD TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION. HAS HE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE RECENT ACTION WAS IN FULFILMENT OF THAT THREAT?

MR: LUCE:

FOR A SHORT PERIOD THE ARGENTINE FLAG WAS PLANTED, IT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

ON THE NEW YORK TALKS, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS IN A GOOD SPIRIT AND WAS NOT ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE BUT ABOUT HOW WE CAN ADOPT PROCEDURES TO DISCUS THE DISPUTE IN THE LONGER TERM.

SINCE THEN, I REGRET THAT SOME ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN WHICH HAS NOT CREATED A HELPFUL ATMOSPHERE. IN THAT CLIMATE IT IS NOT SENSIBLE TO DISCUSS MAKING FURTHER PROGRESS.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT, IF WE WISH PROGRESS, WE SHOULD NOT DO IT AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF THREATS AND PROVOCATION.

MR. HEALEY:

IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THIS ACTION BY ARGENTINE CITIZENS TOOK PLACE WITH THE SUPPORT OR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT?

MR LUCE:

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT IT DID NOT KNOW OF THE ACTION, WHICH WAS TAKEN BY A COMMERCIAL COMPANY. BUT THE HOUSE WILL NEED TO KNOW THAT THE SHIP WHICH TRANSPORTED THE PARTY THERE HAD A CARGO VESSEL, IS A NAVAL TRANSPORT SHIP.

MR. HEALEY (SOUTH EAST, ESSEX, C):

TO OVERREACT IT IS IMPORTANT... POINTLESS TO GO ON ASSERTING... AS LONG AS THE IN HABIT... TANGIBLE... ARGENTINE... ISLANDS

THE HOUSE... ISLANDS



MR. ALAN BAKER (SHEFFIELD):

THAT IS NOT THE IMPRESSION THE FOREIGN OFFICE ACTIONS HAVE GIVEN. MIGHT NOT THIS ESCAPE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S STANCE OVER THE LEASERAY PROPOSAL?

WILL MR. LUCE MAKE CLEAR THAT SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE ISLANDERS WILL BE A CORNERSTONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND THAT WE WILL STAND BY IT?

MR. LUCE:

YES. THERE WILL BE NO QUESTION OF ANY CHANGES ON THE ISLANDS WITHOUT THE ISLANDERS' CONSENT. THEIR WISHES ARE PARAMOUNT. EQUALLY, WE WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE HOUSE.

MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN (CARDIFF, SOUTH EAST, LAB):

MR. LUCE WAS WARNED THAT AS SOON AS THE NEWS OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF HMS ENDURANCE BECAME KNOWN TO THE ARGENTINE THIS SORT OF ESCAPE WOULD BE LIKELY.

MR. NICHOLAS WINTERTON (MACCLESFIELD, C):

THE INCIDENT OF THE LAST FEW DAYS ARE TANTAMOUNT TO AN INVASION OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WHETHER OR NOT THE PERSONNEL WERE SPONSORED BY A COMMERCIAL COMPANY OR NOT. WILL MR. LUCE ENSURE THAT HMS ENDURANCE OR A SIMILAR VESSEL REMAINS ON STATION IN THOSE PARTS?

MR. LUCE:

IT IS NOT FOR ME TO ANSWER SPECIFICALLY FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES.

MR. HEALFY:

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT ITSELF IN A SITUATION WHERE IT HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW HMS ENDURANCE. THE ONLY OPTION OPEN TO IT IS TO ASK THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW HMS INVINCIBLE TO SPEND TIME AROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON ITS WAY TO SERVE IN THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY (LAUGHTER).

MR. LUCE:

THE POSITION ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ISLANDS IS AS I HAVE STATED.

MR. MICHAEL MORRIS (NORTHAMPTON, SOUTH C):

WHAT EXACTLY IS "TANGIBLE SUPPORT" IN SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

MR. LUCE:

WE WILL TAKE AND ARE TAKING FIRM ACTION TO DEAL WITH AS THE PRESENT SITUATION. HMS ENDURANCE IS THERE NOW.

MR. ERIC OGDEN (LIVERPOOL, WEST DERRY, SUP):

IS HE SAYING THAT A PARTY OF 50 OR 60 ARGENTINE STEPTOES ON A CONTRAC PAID FOR AND UNDER TAKEN FROM EDINBURG AND BULNOS AIRES IN AN OPERATION ORGANIZED AND CONTROLLED FROM EDINBURG AND BUENOS AIRES WERE ABLE TO LAND ON BRITISH TERRITORY IN A COMMERCIAL OPERATION WITHOUT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES OR THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH GEORGIA BEING AWARE OF THAT? IS THAT PREPARLONCS?

IS HE SAYING THAT THE HOISTING OF THE ARGENTINE FLAG ON BRITISH TERRITORY ONLY DAYS AND WEEKS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT MADE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS TO THE ARGENTINES ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY HAS NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE?

MR. LUCE:

THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVING MADE ANY CONCESSIONS. THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS ANY CONCESSIONS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE. THE PRACTICAL SITUATION ON THE GROUND IS THAT THERE WAS A LANDING BY A PARTY OF SOME 60 PEOPLE LAST SATURDAY. WE THINK THAT THERE ARE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SIX AND 10 PEOPLE THERE AT PRESENT. WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO DEAL WITH THEM.

MR. JOHN STOKES (CHALESOWEN AND STOURBRIDGE, C):

WHEN I WAS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WHEN IN TROUBLE YOU CALLED ON A CRUISER AND THE NEXT DAY IT APPEARED (CHEERS). ARE THERE SUFFICIENT ARMED FORCES TO DEFEND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THEIR DEPENDENCIES?

MR. LUCE:

WE HAVE A DUTY TO THE ISLANDS. THAT DUTY IS TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THEM. THAT IS WHAT WE SHALL DO.

MR. DOUGLAS JAY (WANDSWORTH, BATTERSEA, NORTH, LAB):

APART FROM HMS ENDURANCE, WHAT OTHER DEFENCE FORCES HAVE WE IN THIS AREA?

MR LUCE:

ALTHOUGH THE DETAILS OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES ARE FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE IT WOULD NOT BE WRONG TO SAY THAT THERE IS A GARRISON OF BRITISH AS WELL AS HMS ENDURANCE.

MR. JOHN BLACKBURN (DUDLEY, WEST, C):

WOULD HE MAKE A COVENANT WITH THIS HOUSE AND THIS NATION THAT THE QUESTION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THESE ISLAND IS NOT AN AGENDA ITEM FOR DISCUSSION WITH ANY FOREIGN POWER?

MR. LUCE:

I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR ME TO MAKE A COVENANT WITH ANYBODY. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. IT IS EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT THE ARGENTINIANS CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS. THIS IS A DISPUTE. IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE FOR ALL THE PARTIES IF THEY WERE TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE IN A SENSIBLE AND PEACEFUL FASHION. WE CANNOT DO THAT AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF THREATS.

'THE GUARDIAN' Y 'THE DAILY TELEGRAPH' CONTIENE TAMBIEN TRANSCRIPCIONES PARCIALES DE ESTE DEBATE. 2703 1030. HOLTENI