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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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MO 5/21

MA/DCDS(I)  
HEAD OF DS 4  
HEAD OF DS 5  
HEAD OF DS 11  
HEAD OF NHB

*Comm*

*More or less that was used. quite  
highly to be*

FALKLAND ISLANDS: HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE *sta*

There are a number of points which, following the debate in the House of Commons on Saturday, require to be carefully examined before the next debate in the House of Commons, and I have set out in the annex to this minute the main points on which the Secretary of State wants some powerful speaking notes together with any supplementary material on which he could draw if necessary, and, where necessary, background notes to explain further details not suitable for speaking material.

2. This material should reach this office by midday on Tuesday 6th at the latest.

3. I enclose an advance copy of Saturday's Hansard.

*Attalus*  
*Henry Cross*

4th April 1982

(D T PIPER)  
APS/S of S

D. S. 5  
RECEIVED  
- 8 APR 1982  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



ACTION

What diplomatic action is the FCO taking (hoping to take) between now and the time the Task Force arrives in the area of the Falkland Islands?

DS 11 (FCO)

Mr Michael Foot's comment in Saturday's debate that FCO Minister of State left unanswered points raised by Mr Ross as a result of his talks with Argentines

DS 11 (FCO)

Financial Assets/Freezing etc  
What has happened?

DS 11 (DOT)

State of Argentine economy

Trade with Argentine - extent?

DS 11 (DOT)

Can we expect NATO and other nations to apply sanctions; break of diplomatic relations?

DS 11 (FCO)

Civil Flights between UK and Argentina

DS 11 (DOT)

Civil shipping

Position of British citizens in Argentina

DS 11 (FCO)

Why did HMG not react to reports (e.g. Guardian 25 Feb - copy attached) of likely military aggression. Why no preparatory action? "Massive misjudgement"

\* ( DS 11 (FCO)  
DCDS(I)

Extend the BBC World Service broadcasts to the Falkland Islands. (Mr John Silkin's point in the debate yesterday). Transcript of FCS broadcast

DS 11 (FCO)

Mr Foot's criticism of our intelligence; Argentine fleet dispositions, etc. Did US not warn us? (S of S was asked in Saturday's debate)

\* DCDS(I)(FCO)

The 1977 operation mounted by the previous Government.

DS 5

Details of development of situation, and of what happened but not, of course, of the advice tendered to the previous Government.

Size of RN in 1977 compared with now.

DS 4

RAF air transport capability/Ascension Island.

DS 8

CLOSED FOR 40 YEARS UNDER  
FOI SECTION 27

DS 11 (DS 8/FCO)

(\* Lengthy speaking note)



NUN

The conduct of the Royal Marines (in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia). Robust defence to counter Mr Enoch Powell's critical remarks DS 5

Events of past week demand a revision of our defence strategy. What if invasion had taken place after Naval cuts? DS 4/5/11

200 mile limit around the Falkland Islands } DS 5

CC

Dr Owen's view that this would be "perfectly compatible" with international law. }

Details of Shackleton Committee's report e.g enlargement of airfield DS 11

Hong Kong? Could it be as vulnerable? DS 11

South Thule. Details. Diplomatic and other action at that time DS 11

Edward Rowland's point in the House on Saturday that "we have been reading (Argentine) telegrams for many years" DCDS(I)/ DS 11

Argentine Naval actions: track record } NHB

Admiral Luce's engagement in 1914/INVINCIBLE }

Any relevant history/ with quotations from Parliament }

# OVERSEAS NEWS

## Tough line for negotiations with Britain

# Falklands raid hint by Argentine army

By John Rettie

As Britain and Argentina prepare for a new round of talks on the future of the Falkland Islands some army generals in Buenos Aires have hinted that they are ready to take military action to press their claim.

The talks, requested by Argentina, will take place in New York tomorrow and Saturday when their deputy Foreign Minister, Enrique Ros, and Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office will meet. This will be the first round of negotiations since the new military Government under General Leopoldo Galtieri took power last December.

According to a article published in the newspaper La Prensa the new Administration is committed to a hard line on the dispute. Columnist J. Iglesias Rouco said that Argentina would seek big concessions from Britain in the dispute. If these were not forthcoming a military invasion could be considered.

Mr Ros supported this possibility when he left for New York on Tuesday. Speaking to reporters at Buenos Aires airport, he called on those who advocated "direct action" to "be patient". He asked them for "confidence that the deci-

sions of the Government will be for the best, given the circumstances and bearing in mind not only our knowledge of the past, but also our vision of the future."

Other sources within the military have also tended to confirm that at least some senior officers are prepared to consider military action. The Government is unpopular because of its economic policies and its refusal to make concessions to Opposition parties. On this argument, the invasion of the "Malvinas," as the islands are called by Argentina, would rally patriotic sentiment for the regime.

The generals in question are reported to believe that an operation to take over islands with a population of 1,800 people, scattered in farming communities, would be logistically simple, it would certainly be easier than military action against Chile, with whom Argentina is also in dispute over frontier limits involving islands near Cape Horn.

The Chilean dispute is subject to Vatican mediation, and it would be hard for the government of a predominantly Catholic country to go against the Pope. But the Foreign Minister, Dr Nicanor Costa Mendez, who has a background of militant nationalism, is re-

ported to have said privately that the international response to an invasion would not necessarily be an insurmountable obstacle.

*Jeremy Morgan adds from Buenos Aires:* In the latest sign of Argentina's continuing economic crisis, military spending is reportedly to be cut this year by \$500 million in the first such reduction in more than a decade. Unofficial estimates suggest that the armed forces, which are thought to have taken about 30 per cent of total state funds in recent years, will lower their 1982 budget to four billion dollars.

This would compare with a record 4.5 billion in 1981, when the deficit on total State spending rose by an unprecedented 60 per cent in real terms.

The cut is in line with a 10 per cent reduction being enforced on all sectors of public spending by the Economy Minister, Dr Roberto Alemann, and which the military regime of President Galtieri earlier agreed should also be applied to the military.

It is not, however, expected to reduce the military's capability, or to slow down its investment programme, which includes new frigates for the navy and new tanks for the army.

# Vietnam resumes US link

From National Council in Bangkok

VICTNAM and the United States have agreed to regularise contacts in a search for a settlement (American secretary of State Alexander Haig and Vietnamese secretary of Defence Richard Armitage).

But Mr Armitage's modest ground for "progress" in the talks.

Vietnamese officials clear that they had a still warning agreement was concluded there being no further what Vietnam could have been US and political exploitation issue.

The main points of the 24-hour visit, ended today, were that front Vietnam and will meet "whenever" and that Vietnamese will visit the US government's centre in Hanoi for investigation.

Mr Armitage's statement maintained that the negotiation did not cover political issues.

Mr Armitage, the senior Pentagon official, Vietnamese relations, Vietnam's official, is bly for the

# Tribunal refuses delay

From Bill Cennlyn-Jones in Madrid

The President of the military tribunal trying 33 people accused of planning to overthrow the Spanish government last year, Lieutenant-General Federico Gomez, yesterday refused an adjournment demanded by the defence.

The lawyers pleaded that they needed a few more days to prepare their defence after the military prosecutor completed his summary of the evidence.

The lawyers, military and civilian, and all well known for their right-wing views, were

# Turkish arrests ordered

From David Barchard in Istanbul

The martial law authorities in Istanbul yesterday ordered the arrest of 42 prominent Turkish intellectuals, including the president of the Istanbul Bar Association, Mr Orhan Apaydin Mrs Reha Isvan, the wife of Mr Ahmet Isvan, the imprisoned former mayor of Istanbul, was also on the list.

The arrests may signal a new crackdown by the regime, and could compromise its efforts to appear even-handed in dealings with left and right-wingers.

