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Collection: Latin American Affairs Directorate, NSC:
Records

Folder: FALKLANDS /MALVINAS: NSC AND
STATE MEMOS, 1982 (1 of 13)

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name Latin American Affairs Directorate, NSC: Records

Withdrawer

SRN 1/25/2012

File Folder FALKLANDS / MALVINAS: NSC AND STATE MEMOS,
1982 (1)

FOIA

F01-027/4

Box Number 91170

O'DONNELL

14

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
128864	MEMO	JAMES RENTSCHLER ET AL TO WILLIAM CLARK RE: FALKLANDS - WHAT NEXT?	1	4/2/1982	B1
128877	OUTLINE	RECOMMENDED SSG AGENDA FOR FALKLANDS CRISIS	2	ND	B1
128879	MEMO	DUPLICATE OF 128864	1	4/2/1982	B1
128882	OUTLINE	DUPLICATE OF 128877	2	ND	B1
128895	MEMO	ALEXANDER HAIG TO THE PRESIDENT RE: FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE	2	4/3/1982	B1
128897	MEMO	ALEXANDER HAIG TO THE PRESIDENT RE: U.S. ROLE IN PREVENTING UK- ARGENTINE CLASH	2	4/5/1982	B1
128900	MEMO	OLIVER NORTH TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE: THE FALKLANDS SITUATION	1	4/6/1982	B1
128912	PAPER	RE: AN OPERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE	2	ND	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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128916	PAPER	RE: BRITISH OPTIONS IN THE FALKLANDS ISLANDS DISPUTE	1	ND	B1
128918	PAPER	RE: CURRENT ASSESSMENT - FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE	4	ND	B1

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128877	OUTLINE RECOMMENDED SSG AGENDA FOR FALKLANDS CRISIS	2	ND	B1

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128879	MEMO DUPLICATE OF 128864	1	4/2/1982	B1

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Fontaine

109

National Security Council
The White House

Package # 2317

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	<u>1</u>	<u>[initials]</u>	
Bud McFarlane	<u>2</u>	<u>[initials]</u>	
Jacque Hill	<u>3</u>	<u>[initials]</u>	
Judge Clark	<u>4</u>	<u>[initials]</u>	<u>A</u>
John Poindexter			
Staff Secretary			
Sit Room			
<u>I</u>			

I-Information A-Action R-Retain D-Dispatch

DISTRIBUTION

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver

Other _____

COMMENTS

Judge,
If you didn't give President
Dell Casey's article you may want
to give him this. John

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

April 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL POINDEXTER

FROM: ROGER W. FONTAINE

SUBJECT: Falkland Islands Dispute

As per your request this morning, attached at Tab A is a historical background of the Falkland Islands.

FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE -- A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The controversy dates back to 1833 when the British, who originally discovered the islands, reoccupied them for use as a seal hunting and shipping base in the South Atlantic in that year.

The Argentine claim is rooted in Spanish control of the islands before 1833. The new Argentine nation which achieved its independence from Spain assumed the Spanish claim. The new government, however, was too weak to oust the British and Buenos Aires lost unbroken control of the islands for 149 years. In losing the islands in 1833 the Argentines, at the time, did not press the question of title with the British, because among other things, Argentina's then dictator, Manuel de Rosas was simultaneously maintaining secret ties and profitable business relations with the British. Moreover, Rosas, seeking a scapegoat, did not hesitate to blame the U.S. for denying the aid he requested under the rubric of the Monroe Doctrine. That American denial rooted in a prudent understanding of scarce American resources at the time became unfortunately a part of the Argentine myth on the Falkland question.

The dispute was, in fact, only a minor irritant in bilateral relations between Britain and Argentina; until the dictatorship of Juan Peron. Peron, at the Inter-American Conference in Bogota in 1948, disdained the conference but did instruct his delegation to submit one measure calling for the creation of an American Committee on Dependent Territories with obvious reference to the Falkland Islands. That Peron initiative led to a single meeting of the American Committee in Havana in 1949 but got nowhere.

The current phase of the dispute began in 1965 when Argentina for the first time brought the matter before the UN. That date, 17 years ago, marks the beginning in modern Argentine mythology of the diplomatic struggle to regain Argentine sovereignty over the islands.

The General Assembly declared that sovereignty over the islands was in dispute and created a negotiating framework. Discussions were unsuccessful and yielded only a series of agreements during the early 1970's which facilitated travel and contracts for Argentine companies providing fuel and other necessities to the islands all of whom are of British descent.

The growing economic potential of the island group heightened diplomatic tensions in the mid-1970's. In 1974 a geological survey determined that the Falklands could be the center of a vast pool of oil -- perhaps nine times the size of North Sea fields. Offshore marine resources -- fish, krill (a small crustacean), and kelp -- also promised substantial profits.

In 1976, Argentina underscored its determination to speed up negotiations by using a destroyer to harrass a British research ship in Falkland territorial waters. That incident occurred at a time of substantial domestic unrest in Argentina immediately prior to the ousting of Pres. Isabel Peron.

The latest round of Anglo-Argentine talks began in February of this year -- talks which were the heart of the 15 years of negotiations established by the UN in 1965. Pres. Galtieri, who has directed a more aggressive foreign policy since his removal of Gen. Viola from the presidency in December, pressed for a more permanent negotiation commission to replace the previous ad hoc negotiating structure. In mid-March, when the British appeared to be vascillating, the Argentines seized the initiative by publicly demanding Britain's acceptance of their proposal or face an end to the talks and otherwise unspecified Argentine actions. The British refused, the talks floundered, and the incident in South Georgia that began on March 19 escalated into confrontation and the Argentine invasion of the Falklands on Friday, April 2, 1982.

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

April 2, 1982

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RECEIVED 05 APR 82 14

TO PRES

FROM HAIG, A

DOCDATE 03 APR 82

KEYWORDS: GREAT BRITAIN

ARGENTINA

CM

SUBJECT: FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE

ACTION: PRESIDENT BRIEFED VERBALLY

DUE:

STATUS C

FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

WHEELER

RENTSCHLER

FONTAINE

COMMENTS

REF# 8209152

LOG

NSCIFID

(L / L)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C)

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OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)
DMM 01/25/2012

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MFR,

4/5

President was
verbally briefed
on the contract.

Sp 4/5

JH

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128895	MEMO ALEXANDER HAIG TO THE PRESIDENT RE: FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE	2	4/3/1982	B1

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OPENING STATEMENT ON FALKLANDS

Before taking your questions, I want to offer one or two remarks concerning the situation before us in the South Atlantic. From the outset we have made clear our wish to assist in finding a basis for resolution of this difficult issue. It was for that purpose that I sent Secretary Haig to both capitals last week.

During his travels I have remained in close communication with him and today have had the benefit of a thorough report on where matters stand.

The situation is most sensitive. Nonetheless ideas have been presented which are being seriously considered on both sides.

In the interest of finding a solution, I will ask Secretary Haig to return to Argentina for further talks.

In view of the sensitivity of the situation no further comment would be appropriate at this time and I will defer all questions until further developments occur.

RECEIVED 06 APR 82 09

TO PRESIDENT

FROM HAIG, A

DOCDATE 05 APR 82

KEYWORDS: GREAT BRITAIN

ARGENTINA

OAS

UN

CM

SUBJECT: US ROLE IN PREVENTING UK - ARGENTINE CLASH

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR CLARK

DUE: 06 APR 82 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RENTSCHLER

FONTAINE

GUHIN

WHEELER

URGENT

COMMENTS **3 HR TURNAROUND -- CABINET LEVEL

REF# LOG 8202120 NSCIFID (C /)

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DISPATCH _____ W/ATTCH FILE _____ (C)

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DOR 01/25/2012

WHSR
ROUTE SLIP

Time Stamp

STAFF	C/O
Clark	
McFarlane	C
Poindexter	C
Rentschler	C
Fontaine	C
Merchant	O
NSC S/S	

C : Copy

O : Original

Monday, April 5, 1982

Q: What is the status on the Falkland Islands dispute?
What have you done to help resolve it?

A: As you know, the armed forces of Argentina have occupied the Falkland and South Georgia Islands. The British government is preparing a naval task force and it has announced it will restore British administration to the Islands by force if necessary.

I view the situation as extremely serious. A great tragedy is developing involving two countries friendly to us. Britain is a NATO ally with whom we have enjoyed a special relationship for decades. Argentina is a major country in this hemisphere with whom we have sought better relations.

The United States is neutral on the question of sovereignty for the disputed Islands. We are not neutral on the question of the use of force.

I personally conveyed this to President Galtieri by phone on Thursday night. The U.S. supported the Security Council resolution calling for the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Islands and urging a peaceful resolution of the dispute.

The U.S. will continue to offer its good offices to bring about that peaceful resolution. The United

Kingdom and Argentina are our friends. As friends
we can do no less.

NOTE: State believes the answer is too long; suggests
using only the last two paragraphs.

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The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.