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Meeting with Mr. David Tatham of the British Embassy
on the Falkland Islands Issue

5 April, 1982 3.00 p.m.

1. Mr. Tatham said that he had been specifically instructed to thank us for our support in the Security Council. The adoption of the resolution was a considerable achievement. The problem was how to proceed from there. There was a need to achieve a diplomatic solution before the British task force reached the Falkland Islands in about two weeks. The U.K. was seeking support of its position and would also be seeking the support of the European Community. (We have since learned that the UK have formally requested that the situation in the Falklands be inscribed on the agenda of COREPER on Tuesday 6 April, with the intention of invoking sanctions in a number of specific areas - i.e. agriculture, textiles, steel and footwear. They have asked that first reaction of partners to this proposal be given at that meeting).

2. As far as Ireland is concerned he suggested four areas where we might consider action:

- (1) calling on the Argentine Ambassador to inform him of our condemnation of the Argentine action;
- (2) calling Ambassador Walshe back from Buenos Aires "for consultations";
- (3) imposing an arms embargo on Argentina;
- (4) suspending export credit guarantees for trade with Argentina.

The UK Government, he said, considered it important that Argentina should pay a serious diplomatic price for its attack on the Falklands. Action of the type requested would, the U.K. Government hoped, convince the Argentine Government that its illegal action would not be condoned by the international community.

3. Mr. MacKernan, while taking note of the U.K. requests, enquired if the U.K. were going to seek U.N. sanctions against Argentina. Mr. Tatham said that no decision had been taken in this regard, but thought it unlikely that a resolution seeking such sanctions would be successful.

4. Mr. MacKernan enquired if the U.K. had any idea as to how a solution of the crisis could be found by diplomatic means to which Mr. Tatham replied that he had no information about this.

5. Mr. MacKernan, indicating that he was speaking in a personal capacity, wondered if consideration was being given to the idea of having the U.N. play a role - for example, sending a U.N. peace-keeping force to the island. Again, Mr. Tatham said that he had no knowledge if this was being considered.

6. Concluding the meeting, Mr. MacKernan said that we were anxious to do whatever we could to assist in a peaceful resolution of the problems and that in our role as a member of the Security Council, we would do whatever we could to be helpful. We will look into the specific requests made by the U.K. and see what we could do.

B. Moran
5 April 1982.