

PRIME MINISTER

REAGAN AND BRITISH MEDIA

This note reminds you of our discussion early today on the British media's treatment of the US veto in the UN and the consequent action you and the Foreign Secretary are to take.

The British media reflects two conclusions:

- betrayal by the US for disclosing it would not have vetoed, but abstained, had it had a second chance; and
- its incompetence in conducting its affairs in this way (and without consulting the President).

This is a poor background for President Reagan's visit to London, starting Monday. It was therefore agreed you and the Foreign Secretary should privately try to help Reagan and Haig to rescue themselves in the eyes of the public.

You agreed to approach Reagan and Haig in the margins of the Summit this morning to discuss how this might be done.

In particular, you propose to suggest to Reagan and Haig that during the Summit and national press conferences they should say as many things as possible supportive of Britain's position; and to make as many points in common with the British as possible.

An aide memoire is attached.

Two other points:

- you are anxious to have a sight of President Reagan's Royal Gallery speech in advance; you may wish to raise this; and

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- it is highly desirable, to say the least, that President Mitterrand, acting for the Summit as a whole, should speak supportively at the Summit press conference; you may care to consider an approach to him also.

Bernard Ingham

6 June 1982

US VIEWS ON FALKLAND ISLANDS

Following are some points about the Falkland Islands which United States leaders have made in the recent past.

1. Armed aggression must not be allowed to succeed in the world. If the Argentine invasion were allowed to stand uncontested, this would reduce the security of small states everywhere.
2. We support the principle of self-determination, enshrined in the UN Charter, and believe that the rule of law must be upheld.
3. The fact that we took a different view from Britain on the merits of a text at the United Nations does not diminish our strong support for Britain in this crisis.
4. We are not asking for a military pause. ~~It would be presumptuous of us to insist that the British seek a negotiated settlement.~~ These ^{is a} are judgements for Britain to make.
5. Like Britain, we hope that this can be resolved with minimum loss of life and we note that the option of honourable withdrawal remains open to the Argentine garrison.