

MORNING DIGEST

Foreign Media Reaction

April 8, 1982

FALKLANDS CRISIS--Media in several countries took note of Secretary Haig's "peace dash" to London amid concern over a possible naval confrontation in the South Atlantic.

"Reagan Dispatches Haig on Peace Mission"

Headlines included "Reagan Dispatches Haig on Peace Mission to London" (Times, front page), "Cabinet Acted to Forestall Haig Proposal" (Guardian, front page), "U.S. May Steer From Sovereignty Question" (Financial Times), "Peacemaker Haig Moves In" (Daily Mail, front page), "Haig's Peace Dash" (Sun) and "Haig in Dash for Peace" (Daily Express, front page).

"Britain Pins Hopes on Lightning Visit"

Correspondent Nicholas Ashford reported from Washington in today's independent Times that "Britain is pinning great hopes on the lightning visit to London by Mr. Alexander Haig...who has been sent by President Reagan for talks with the British Government on the Falkland Islands crisis..."

"It was stressed in Whitehall last night that the Americans had agreed that a precondition of negotiations should be withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Islands, and that they supported efforts to restore the Islands to British administration and sovereignty..."

"The fact that (Haig) has...been sent to London (rather than accompanying the President to the Caribbean) reflects the seriousness with which the United States regards the possibility of an open clash between Britain and Argentina over the Islands."

"Any Neutering Strategy Will Be Refused"

Correspondents in London and Washington for the liberal Guardian reported today that "Mr. Haig arrives in London this morning on a mission designed to put together the framework for a diplomatic package to resolve the Falkland crisis..."

"But before his plane was airborne last night, British ministers were aware that Mr. Haig is bearing a proposal that the Royal Navy task force should, on reaching Falkland waters, observe a voluntary 'freeze' on the use of its weapons."

This summary is based on ICA field reports received by 8 a.m. EST. It does not represent a complete sampling of the world press. Questions on content and sources should be directed to PGM/RC: phone 724-9057

International Communication Agency

"Any suggestion for such a neutering strategy will be refused, according to political sources in Whitehall last night. 'If the Americans want us to spike our guns,' one highly-placed Tory source said, 'they have another think coming.'..."

"Will Try to Steer Away From Sovereignty Issue"

The independent London Financial Times today ran the report of a correspondent in Buenos Aires that "the United States is expected to try to steer Britain and Argentina away from the issue of sovereignty and the military question in its attempts to establish points of agreement capable of defusing the Falkland crisis.

"Points under discussion are likely to include the prospect of Britain and Argentina sharing the economic benefits that can be gained through closer cooperation...including exploration for oil reserves around the islands..."

"Don't Let Us Down, General!"

Today's independent left-leaning London Sun asserted, "General Haig, the tough and able U.S. Secretary of State, arrives here for talks on the crisis.

"The Sun has some advice for General Haig.

"You are warmly welcome---as a friend and ally who can help to ensure that justice is done and that the Islands are restored to British sovereignty. But please do not come merely as a mediator. The issue cannot be fudged. The people of the Falklands, and everyone in Britain, will be depending on you..."

"This is the hour for Britain and America to stand together, as they did in two world wars, in defense of freedom. Mrs. Thatcher's message to Alexander Haig must be: Don't let us down, General!"

The conservative Daily Express wrote today, "The U.S. Secretary of State... will be welcome enough here and there will be no disposition to evade any American bid to arrange mediation, on the clear understanding that nothing will be negotiated or mediated until the Argentinians have quit the Falklands and South Georgia..."

"The Larger Dimension of This Crisis"

Today's Times recalled that "Britain backed the Americans in their attempt to relieve their hostages in Iran, and regretted the fact that it failed. Mr. Haig should be reminded of that point on his visit to London today, since President Reagan has no more stalwart ally in the West than Mrs. Thatcher.

"It would not just be ungentlemanly of him not to return the compliment...it would be unwise. The future of Mrs. Thatcher's Government depends on a successful outcome of this venture..."

"Therein lies the larger dimension of this crisis, both for Britain and for the West as a whole. The credibility of deterrence against aggression has been challenged in the South Atlantic. It could just as easily have been challenged in the North Atlantic, in Scandinavia, in Central Europe or in the Balkans..."

"Mr. Haig would do well to recognize that it is not just the British Government but the whole Alliance which would suffer dangerously from such an aggression being allowed to succeed. Tomorrow it will be somebody else's turn."

"Other Factors Washington Must Consider"

Today's conservative Daily Telegraph judged that "there are other factors Washington has to take into consideration besides the simple desire to avoid an outbreak of hostilities. One is that the Argentine military dictatorship is deeply unpopular with most ordinary Americans. They are uneasy at the Reagan Administration's plans to use them as allies in its anti-Communist crusade..."

"U.S. Diplomatic Shuttle"

French headlines of this morning were "U.S. Tries to Promote Negotiations in Falkland Islands Conflict" (Le Monde), "Argentina: French Arms Embargo...Haig to London as Mediator" (Parisen Libere), "No French Arms for Argentina" (Le Matin), "U.S. Diplomatic Shuttle to Avoid War" (Liberation) and "Washington Must Reconcile Its Two Best Friends" (Figaro/Aurore).

"Impossible Situation for U.S."

Mass-circulation France-Soir said today: "The United States is facing an impossible situation. Ideologically speaking, Mrs. Thatcher is the closest to President Reagan among the European allies. She proved it by supporting the American President on all the most important issues: Euromissiles, sanctions against the Soviet Union, El Salvador.

"But Argentina is also one of the cornerstones of the American strategy in Latin America....The one reason for hope is that Argentina seems to be prepared to discuss everything about the conflict except its own sovereign right..."

Pro-Socialist Le Matin observed today that thus far "the United States has maintained reserve with respect to OAS involvement for fear of see-

ing implementation of the Rio Treaty come up for discussion. The Argentine Foreign Minister said...he would invoke the Treaty if necessary."

"No U.S. Sanctions"

Leftist Liberation observed that "the United States voted with Britain on a U.N. Security Council resolution for Argentina's immediate withdrawal from the Falkland Islands. But Reagan does not want to go further. He refuses to impose sanctions on Argentina because, as Secretary Haig has said, 'Both countries are friends of the United States.'"

"Haig Flies to London, Moscow Is on Galtieri's Side"

Among Italian headlines today were "Reagan Sends Haig to London and Buenos Aires" (Center-right Il Giornale of Milan), "Haig Flies to London, Moscow Is on Galtieri's Side" (conservative Il Tempo of Rome), "Haig Tries to Prevent Conflict....British Ambassador to the U.S. Notes Bitterly: American Neutrality Is Wrong and Dangerous" (La Repubblica) and "The U.S. Helps London, Moscow Supports Argentina" (Paese Sera).

Rumor That U.S. Asked U.K. Not to Act on Intelligence Report

Rome's left-leaning La Repubblica today ran a London correspondent's assertion that "British politicians...do not like Reagan's Solomonic stand.

"There are unflattering rumors in London on the role played by the United States in the crisis. It seems that Reagan and Haig had asked Thatcher and Carrington not to take action when the intelligence service informed the British Government that the invasion was being prepared...

"If this reconstruction of events is correct, it would have been Washington's advice which caused the Conservative Government to be caught with its pants down. Carrington and Thatcher may have paid for the errors of the U.S. Administration."

"Haig's Mission Not an Easy One"

The paper's New York correspondent said President Reagan's decision to dispatch Secretary Haig to London might increase hopes for a diplomatic solution before the British fleet arrives at the Falklands but "the Administration is perfectly aware that Haig's mission is not an easy one."

Centrist La Stampa of Turin remarked today, "Every conflict creates bizarre friendships, but it is almost comical to watch Argentina being

officially congratulated by the Soviet Union....It confirms that the Russians are plagued by economic crisis. Moscow is hungry for grain and Argentina can supply it."

"Why Haig Pursues Shuttle Diplomacy"

Socialist Party Avanti stated today that "all Soviet actions indicate that the Soviet Union sympathizes with Fascist Argentina....The USSR is thinking not only of its grain, but also of participating more and more boldly in the South American game....The United States would then find it difficult to wait and see. This is why Haig is pursuing shuttle diplomacy before the British fleet approaches the Falklands."

"U.S. Duplicity"

Rome's pro-Communist Paese Sera today carried New York correspondent John Cappelli's opinion that "these desperate (U.S.) diplomatic initiatives do not succeed...in hiding certain disclosures that make us wonder about the alleged U.S. impartiality.

"According to authoritative sources--denied by the Pentagon--the United States has supplied top-secret data to Britain on the movements of Argentine troops and units. The duplicity of the U.S. position is also based...on the fact that Washington was negotiating with Galtieri on a plan of subversion against Nicaragua..."

Cappelli added, "Political observers in Washington and at the U.N. do not hesitate to state that the worst consequences of the crisis are being suffered by the Reagan Administration. Argentina's outburst not only killed the projects for the destabilization of Nicaragua, but also neutralized American pressure aiming at preventing the grain shipments to the Soviet Union..."

"Haig Mission Gives Cause to Hope"

West Berlin's independent Tagesspiegel wrote today: "The announced mission of U.S. Secretary of State Haig in London and Buenos Aires gives cause to hope for a peaceful settlement of the Falkland crisis, especially since Argentina and Great Britain have asked Washington for mediation. The parties involved desire a peaceful crisis management because an armed conflict, even if it were restricted to the island group, would have serious and negative consequences for West European and U.S. relations with Latin America, yes, the entire third world."

The paper believed Argentina would choose military conflict "unless the embarrassing withdrawal is not at least adorned by a political compromise that would give consideration to the geographic situation of the island group and the interests of its inhabitants.

"Mutual threatening gestures of Britain and Argentina supported by their allies have not yet blocked chances for such a reasonable solution."

Today's independent Berliner Morgenpost observed, "Moscow was just about to improve its more than bad relations with London, last but not least in order to split the Americans and the Europeans in the INF debate. A hard line toward the British would again tie them more closely to the Americans."

"All Hopes Focus on Washington"

West German TV One and Two reported Mr. Haig's mission to London and Buenos Aires. TV Two said "all hopes focus on Washington, on America's mediation efforts."

Diplomats at Brussels "Pin Hopes on U.S. Mediation"

Today's left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau ran a Brussels correspondent's report that "West European diplomats pin their hopes on a U.S. mediation effort even though President Reagan has indicated that there are 'difficulties.'"

"Haig Indicated Compromise?"

Washington correspondent Winfried Muenster of pro-Social Democratic Stuttgarter Zeitung said today, "To ensure Argentina's readiness for negotiations and to gain badly needed time, Secretary Haig apparently indicated to his Argentine colleague Costa Mendez that compromise is conceivable. The Islands could be put under Argentine sovereignty if Argentina withdrew its troops and put up with British presence there..."

"The American public probably would be displeased by such a compromise since it would amount to granting Argentina benefits for its aggression. However, Washington was reluctant from the outset to embrace the unambiguous position that aggression must not pay."

"A Compromise Would Enhance Haig's Prestige"

Pro-Christian Democratic Frankfurter Neue Presse said today that if Mr. Reagan "could bring about some compromise, it would enhance his prestige....If the Soviets tried to interfere in the Falklands conflict and reap undue rewards they would cast doubt on their readiness for peace and for substantive arms control negotiations."

"How Strong Are Reagan's Trump Cards?"

Duesseldorf's pro-Christian Democratic Rheinische Post stated that America would "render military assistance to neither side....Maybe the

merits of Reagan's policy, which at first glance appears dubious, will show in the not too distant future....How strong are Reagan's trump cards in this game at the threshold between war and peace?..."

"British Could Expect More Solidarity From the U.S."

Today's left-of-center Westdeutsche Allgemeine of Essen carried Washington correspondent Emil Boelte's report that "Reagan and Haig are trying hard to maintain their position as mediators and not to irritate the British or the Argentines....But beyond any doubt the British could count on more solidarity in the event of an armed conflict than could the Argentine aggressors."

Argentina: "Haig's Peace Effort"

Buenos Aires headlines today included "Haig's Peace Effort in London to Solve Anglo-Argentine Crisis Starts Today...Haig Will Travel to Argentina" (La Prensa), "Haig in Britain Today...London Government Warmly Receives Reagan Decision to Help Solve Conflict...Haig Coming to Argentina" (La Nacion) and "Argentina Will Reject British Blockade...Haig Coming to Buenos Aires From London" (Clarín).

Conservative La Prensa front-paged a statement of Foreign Minister Costa Mendez that "Haig seems to understand the Argentine position well and I trust that the negotiations will be successful..."

"Official Sources Show Optimism"

The paper remarked: "Withdrawal of Argentine troops from the Malvinas in exchange for the prior and express British recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Islands is believed to be one of the conditions of the U.S. proposal for an understanding. Official sources showed optimism about the chance of success but reaffirmed that the solution will never come about through relinquishing Argentine sovereignty over the Islands."

"Haig's Visit Seems the Most Suitable Way to a Solution"

Independent Clarín's political editor wrote: "Haig's visit seems the most suitable way to find a solution to the Anglo-Argentine conflict. Diplomatic sources pointed out here last night that the Reagan Government's action and commitment were very substantive but nevertheless expressed some reservations about the Haig mission's prospects of success."

"Haig's Purpose to Stop the British Fleet?"

Conservative La Nacion's New York correspondent Ovidio Bellando wrote that "according to authoritative sources here, Haig's purpose is to stop the British fleet..."

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A London correspondent for the paper stated that "precisely because both Britain and Argentina are good friends of the U.S. Government, President Reagan's participation promises a fair judgment in addition to U.S. good will."

Brazil: "U.S. Would Not Comply With Rio Treaty"

Yesterday's independent Jornal do Brasil of Rio do Janeiro carried a byliner's view that "what is at stake is not only a conflict of great proportions between two Western countries that maintain effective ties of cooperation with Brazil but the entire issues of international legal order and inter-American and Western cooperation..."

"If the Rio Treaty were invoked, the United States would not comply with the Treaty because of its links with Great Britain. The inter-American system would collapse and it would become apparent that the United States would be a trustworthy defender of the region only against its own enemies and not against those that are solely enemies of the Latin American countries involved..."

Japan: "Cautious Stand" on British Request for Sanctions

Tokyo television networks, noting that President Reagan asked Secretary Haig to visit Britain and Argentina, said that Mr. Haig has "no concrete proposals" for resolving the Falkland dispute but would sound out the leaders of the two countries on a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Fuji television reported today that Prime Minister Suzuki had received a letter from Prime Minister Thatcher calling on Japan to carry out economic sanctions against Argentina. The network said Suzuki had taken "a cautious stand" on the British request and speculated that Japan would watch the moves of other nations before deciding on any measures.

Soviet Union: Washington Only Worried About Thatcher

Moscow TASS International Service in Russian today ran a report from London that "U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig arrives here today...The aim of these talks is to find a solution to (the Falkland) conflict...which is assuming an even more dangerous character."

"A number of newspapers hint that in this matter Washington is by no means concerned about the future of these territories. The Reagan Administration is seriously worried by the growing danger of losing

its most devoted ally in Western Europe--the Conservative Government led by Mrs. Thatcher.

"Her position...is now been subjected to criticism....The 'military adventure'...may end in failure and lead to the inevitable downfall of the Conservative Government. This is precisely why Washington is trying to take upon itself the role of mediator..."

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U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY--In sustained discussion of Secretary Haig's Georgetown University speech defining the Administration's nuclear armament policy, some West European media analysts referred to the reported Bundy-McNamara-Smith-Kennan proposal.

TV Uses Film of News Conference

West German TV One last night carried Washington correspondent Lothar Loewe's film report on a news conference with the four former officials and authors of the article to be published in Foreign Affairs calling for a change of U.S. defense policy. Anchorwoman Barbara Dickmann observed that a public opinion poll showed "70 per cent of the U.S. population favor a freeze in the huge arms arsenals.... President Reagan unwaveringly continued to work on his deterrence concept but his reasoning that the Soviets are somewhat superior to America is considered exaggerated even among his own staff..."

"The Four Raise Doubts About NATO Doctrine"

Loewe said the four "raise doubts about NATO doctrine. In addition to suggesting a freeze in arms in East and West, they add important impulses to the transatlantic discussion of defense strategy within NATO..."

"Grist for the Mills of Conventional Forces Advocates"

Conservative Die Welt of Bonn and other papers reported details of the Foreign Affairs article, stating that it suggested strengthening NATO's conventional forces "so that the Alliance could abandon the strategy of first use of nuclear weapons in the event of an all-out attack by Warsaw Pact forces."

In an editorial the paper said that "their article reads like an admission that the sorcerer's apprentice finds himself unable to get rid of the ghost he has called forth....Their (the authors) ideas are grist for the mills of people who have been calling all the time for basing the defense of Central Europe exclusively on conventional

forces.... Fortunately, others such as Secretary Haig say more realistic things. It must never happen that the balance is based exclusively on conventional forces..."

"Haig Clearly Outlined Washington's Position"

Independent General-Anzeiger of Bonn judged that "there is no reason to speculate on a U.S.-Soviet thaw. Secretary Haig has clearly outlined Washington's position once more in saying that differences of view between the United States and the USSR will continue to be greater than areas of rapprochement."

In Paris today, liberal Le Monde ran the headline "Secretary Haig Refuses a 'Leap Into the Unknown'" over a report of the Georgetown University address.

Rome papers briefly reported the Haig speech. Excerpts were carried on noon television news yesterday.

Hungary: Papers Quote Four Authors at Press Conference

In Budapest, Nepszabadsag ran a front-page story on activities of peace movements in Britain, West Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy and the United States.

On page two the paper headlined "Leading U.S. Politicians Demand Freeze on Nuclear Weapons" and quoted from the Bundy-McNamara-Smith-Kennan news conference. A correspondent said that "press reports in Washington give new data on nuclear policy aiming at strategic superiority..."

Soviet Union: "Haig's Attempt to Stem Anti-War Movement"

In Moscow, Pravda yesterday said Secretary Haig's Georgetown University address "cannot be interpreted as other than an attempt to stem the growing anti-war movement in the United States."

TASS called the speech "the same old stand."

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REAGAN CARIBBEAN TRIP--Today's Moscow Pravda, citing TASS as saying that "officials in the (U.S.) Administration point out that the chief aim of the visit is to try and 'boost' Washington's so-called 'Caribbean initiative,'" said "observers consider this 'initiative' a brazen attempt by American imperialism to interfere in the internal affairs of countries...with the aim of countering the growing movement of peoples for national independence and sovereignty."