

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2012/90/868
Creation Date(s):	28 April 1982
Extent and medium:	3 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Meeting between the Secretary and the Argentine Ambassador

Tuesday 27 April 1982, 5.30 p.m.

1. The Ambassador said that he had received instructions from his Government to inform the Irish authorities of the attitude of the Argentine Government to the unprovoked attack made by British forces on the small contingent of Argentine soldiers in South Georgia.
2. The Argentine Government, he said, cannot accept that the hostile activities, including the attack on the Argentine submarine, were conducted on the basis of legitimate self-defence.
3. In the light of this hostile action by the U.K. Government, Argentina was asking the Irish Government, as a member of the EEC, to raise with its partners the question of lifting the embargo on Argentine imports.
4. Speaking "off the record", the Ambassador said that he understood that the solidarity shown by the other member States of the EEC with Britain was agreed on the basis that the measures taken would be lifted immediately if the U.K. resorted to force and placed itself outside the diplomatic channels of the U.N. The U.K. had now initiated hostilities in South Georgia in defiance of Security Council Resolution 502, at a time when negotiations on the dispute were in progress through diplomatic channels and the mediation efforts of U.S. Secretary of State Haig.
5. In reply, the Secretary welcomed the opportunity to explain to the Ambassador what we were doing and why we were doing it. The problem had engaged the personal attention of the Taoiseach on a day to day basis. It was a difficult problem for us to handle because of the longstanding Irish/Argentine tradition of friendly relationships on the one hand, and on the other hand the very important Ireland/U.K. relationship which is fraught with its own problems.
6. The Secretary explained the reasons for our decision *to vote for Resolution 502 in the Security Council and our decision to support the Community action which we considered was consistent with the objectives of Resolution 502.

Resolution
502 is
at back of
file -
on
28/4

7. With regard to the specific Argentine requests, the Secretary pointed out that the duration of the import embargo was limited to one month after which it would be reviewed. As far as the "off the record" understanding of the Ambassador was concerned, he had no knowledge of any link between the use of force by Britain and the Community decision.

8. The Secretary referred to the additional requests which were made of the Community by Britain to take further measures to reinforce the Community embargo. Ireland was the only country which placed a reserve on this request at meetings last week. The matter was expected to be discussed by Foreign Ministers to-day, but in fact, it was not raised and the presumption must be that the U.K. have dropped their request. It appeared that the will did not exist for further action by the Ten in support for Britain.

9. The Secretary emphasised that Ireland will continue to take an even handed approach in regard to this dispute. In the present situation, Ireland had not taken a position on the sovereignty issue. We had addressed ourselves solely to the question of the rule of law in international relations and to the fact that force was used to resolve a dispute. In fact, on the issue of sovereignty our position is clear from our support for various U.N. resolutions on the subject.

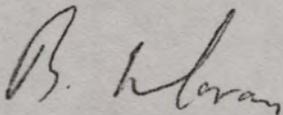
10. The Secretary referred to the continuing contacts at the United Nations between Ambassador Dorr and the Argentine Ambassador. As far as discussions in the Community context were concerned, he assured the Ambassador that Argentina's interests would be fully taken into account. With regard to the meeting which took place in Luxembourg to-day (Tuesday) Argentina could take some encouragement from developments there.

11. The Ambassador enquired about the additional requests which the U.K. had made of the Community. The Secretary said that the U.K. had requested that the Presidency should make approaches to third countries - in some cases to inform them of the Community's action, but in the case of OECD member countries, specific requests were to be made that they would take measures similar to those taken by the Community, or at least measures which would prevent the EC measures from being circumvented.

While he did not have full details of the meeting, he would ask the Political Director on his return from Luxembourg to contact the Ambassador to inform him of the most recent developments.

12. The Ambassador asked if, in the light of the British aggression in South Georgia, we would request that the Community lift the imports embargo. The Secretary said that there were practical problems involved - there was no meeting of Foreign Ministers scheduled before 17 May other than an informal meeting on 8 - 9 May (which could not take decisions). He thought it unlikely that a special meeting would be called to discuss this question. Nevertheless, he would inform the Minister of the Argentine request.

13. Finally, the Ambassador, referring to the Irish decision to vote for Resolution 502, pointed out that Ireland did not take into account that the action by Argentina on 1 - 2 April was taken to balance out an act of force by the U.K. in 1833 when the Argentine settlers were expelled from the Malvinas islands.



B. Moran
Political Division
28 April 1982