

NEWS

from
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U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

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TSONGAS SAYS THAT U.S. NEUTRALITY IN FALKLAND'S CRISIS IS WRONG

Senator Paul Tsongas said in a speech before the Senate today that he is "deeply disappointed" in the failure of the Reagan administration to "condemn unequivocally, openly, and loudly," the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands.

"I am struck by the inherent bias of a so-called policy of neutrality which treats a blatant aggressor and its victim as equals," Tsongas stated. "I am appalled that a stalwart ally, Great Britain, and a good friend to this Administration, should find itself steaming 8,000 miles toward a well-armed foe with nothing more than platitudes of support from the United States."

While Tsongas expressed his support for Secretary of State Alexander Haig's "skill and determination" at shuttle diplomacy "under the most difficult diplomatic circumstances," he had harsh words for U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick's "almost pro-Argentine remarks...after the ill-advised attendance at an Argentine Embassy affair the night of the invasion."

"One cannot help but conclude that Argentina has reaped a few rewards for its strong support of the Administration's Central American policy," Tsongas said.

The Massachusetts Senator also said that he concurred with his colleague, Senator Daniel P. Moynihan, that the International Court of Justice might be an appropriate means to settle the legal dispute between Britain and Argentina over sovereignty of the Falklands. However, Tsongas added that there was no such legal resolution in sight.

Tsongas, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, speculated on the threat of a full scale war between Argentina and Great Britain. "I think the Soviet Union would welcome such a war. It would certainly welcome any damage to the cohesion and strength of NATO. The Soviets might attempt to supply Argentina with arms during such a war and hope to receive a generous reward once the conflict was over."

Tsongas said that Argentina's questionable human rights reputation, their attempts to develop major trade relations with the Soviets, their refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and their noncompliance with U.S. policy on the grain embargo against the Soviets and sanctions against Poland, should be weighed against the record of Great Britain.

"If the negotiations fail, let there be no ambiguity, no confusion as to where American loyalties lie - with Great Britain," he concluded. "International law, the NATO alliance, and the stature of our most valued ally stand in the balance, and I sincerely hope that President Reagan will come to understand these sober imperatives."