

1) Copy to the UK
 2) Mr Bishop
 Mr Chase R.R. 24/2
 Mr Smith

PA
 24/2/82 ~ (65)

Reassuring to some extent
 The question now is whether
 the UK or the military will
 call the tune. While sovereignty
 remains "crucial", the progress
 for progress remain very slim.
 Lord Buxton's optimism on a
 "civilised solution" keeps the
 question of what has to be
 done. I have taken a copy to show
 the home in New York.

BAFO 514/23

Aw 049/325/1		
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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

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GRS : 280

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FILE/REF : 343/1 DATE : 23 FEBRUARY 1982
 FOLLOWING FOR : ROBERT CHASE, SOUTH AMERICAN DEPT, FCO
 COPY TO (BY BAG) : THE GOVERNOR, PORT STANLEY
 FROM : DAVID JOY, BUENOS AIRES

26/1
 From

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. YOU MAY CARE TO HAVE LORD BUXTON'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS 25-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH COSTA MENDEZ, YESTERDAY EVENING AS RECOUNTED TO ME IMMEDIATELY AFTERSWARDS AT HIS HOTEL. THE MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED PERSONALLY BY ORTIZ DE ROSAS BY TELEPHONE FROM LONDON TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LORD BUXTON'S BRIEF STAY EN ROUTE TO THE FALKLANDS. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE TWO MEN HAD MET.

2. LORD BUXTON FOUND COSTA MENDEZ AN EMINENTLY URBANE AND CULTURED PERSON AND MORE PERTINENTLY, QUITE REASONABLE AND CLEARLY ANGLOPHILE. BUXTON CAME AWAY CONVINCED THAT NO WILD ACTIONS WERE LIKELY TO BE TAKEN BY THE ARGENTINES WHILST THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS IN CHARGE. COSTA MENDEZ SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO FIND SOME ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO THE NOW DISCREDITED LEASEBACK PROPOSAL WHICH HE CONSIDERED HAD BEEN BADLY HANDLED. FOR THE ARGENTINES

SOVEREIGNTY WAS CRUCIAL BUT THE REST WAS NEGOTIABLE. HE MADE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE DEMANDS OF QUOTE PUBLIC OPINION UNQUOTE BUT DID NOT REGARD THE LENGTH OF THE INTERIM TERM AS VERY IMPORTANT. HE DID NOT MENTION THE MILITARY NOR ANY PRESSURES FROM THAT SOURCE. HE DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF INVASION WITH DISPARAGING REFERENCES TO THE AIRLINER HIJACKING OF SOME YEARS AGO. HE ALSO MENTIONED GROWING AMERICAN CONCERN OVER SOUTH ATLANTIC SECURITY AS AN INCREASINGLY USEFUL ALLY FOR ARGENTINA.

3. LORD BUXTON WHO STRESSED THAT HIS DISCUSSION, BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, HAD BEEN ENTIRELY OFF THE RECORD, SEEMED GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC THAT SOME CIVILISED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND. HE IS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE MORE INFORMAL AND PERSONAL CONTACTS OF THIS KIND.

SIGNED : DAVID JOY

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SENT AT 23/1435Z JDG

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