

00 PORT STANLEY

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TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

TELEGRAM NUMBER 90 OF 26 JULY 1979

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

FOLLOWING FOR PS/MR RIDLEY: ARTICLE IN FINANCIAL TIMES

1. UNDER HEADING 'PLAN FOR FALKLANDS FUTURE', THE FT'S CORRESPONDENT IN BUENOS AIRES, ROBERT LINDLEY, HAS AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S PAPER READING AS FOLLOWS:

'A 'HONG KONG' SOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IS BEING TALKED ABOUT AS THE VISIT BY MR NICHOLAS RIDLEY, JUNIOR MINISTER AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, COMES TO AN END.

UNDER SUCH A SCHEME SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ARGENTINA WHICH WOULD THEN LEASE THEM BACK TO BRITAIN FOR, SAY, 99 YEARS. THE BRITISH WAY OF LIFE OF THE ISLANDERS WOULD BE RESPECTED AND ARGENTINIAN CO-OPERATION ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLANDS COULD YIELD DIVIDENDS.

MR RIDLEY IS REPORTED TO BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A SOLUTION, WITHOUT WHICH SOME OBSERVERS SEE THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS AS BLEAK. HOWEVER, FALKLANDERS ARE DISTRUSTFUL OF ASSURANCES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE FROM WHITEHALL, NOW THAT ARGENTINA HAS AGAIN STEPPED UP ITS CAMPAIGN TO ACQUIRE THE ISLANDS'.

2. NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER NO COMMENT ON THIS STORY.

CARRINGTON

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NEWS D  
MR HALL

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