

1 pp 7 (23)

MOD will  
reply  
16/7

Defence Dept  
Mr Fearon  
Mr Smith  
Mr A. Smith  
16/7  
am pursuing paper  
with DS 5.

BAFO 002/15

RESTRICTED

TELELETTER

GRS 190

TO :

|                             |    |                     |
|-----------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Aw 076/1                    |    |                     |
| RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 73 |    |                     |
| 16 JUL 1981                 |    |                     |
| DESK OFFICER                |    | REGISTRY            |
| INDEX                       | PA | Action Taken        |
| 175/492/2                   |    | DATE : 14 JULY 1981 |

RESTRICTED

FILE/REF :

FOLLOWING FOR :

C & BRIGHT ESQ, SAMD, FCO

COPIES (BY BAG) :

M W GROWCOTT ESQ, PORT STANLEY

FROM :

M HICKSON, BRITISH EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

HMS ENDURANCE : ARGENTINE PRESS COMMENT

1. SEVERAL ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS (EG CONVICCION AND CLARIN OF 12 JULY) HAVE CARRIED PROMINENTLY VERSIONS OF AN AFP REPORT OF A DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE ON THE WITHDRAWAL FROM SERVICE OF HMS ENDURANCE. ALL THE REPORTS HAVE HIGH-LIGHTED THE THEME THAT BRITAIN IS THEREBY QUOTE ABANDONING THE PROTECTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS UNQUOTE. THEY HAVE ALSO INCLUDED AN ALLEGED COMMENT BY THE TELEGRAPH THAT BRITAIN IS NOT PREPARED TO PURSUE ITS CLAIMS TO POTENTIAL OIL DEPOSITS AROUND THE FALKLANDS QUOTE FOR FEAR OF OFFENDING ARGENTINA UNQUOTE. THE REPORTS ALSO SAY THAT AN MOD SPOKESMAN HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE ENDURANCE PATROLS IN THE FALKLANDS AND THE ANTARCTIC WILL CEASE QUOTE WHEN THE SHIP IS WITHDRAWN FOR CLEANING NEXT YEAR UNQUOTE.

ected

2. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT NEWS OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE  
ENDURANCE HAS ATTRACTED PUBLIC ATTENTION HERE, AND WE HAVE ALREADY  
RECEIVED A NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES. WE CAN ANSWER MOST OF THESE IN THE  
TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF FCO TELNO 84 TO PORT STANLEY, BUT I SHOULD  
BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THE ALLEGED MOD  
SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPLY THAT ENDURANCE  
MAY CONTINUE IN SERVICE ELSEWHERE AFTER QUOTE CLEANING UNQUOTE.

SIGNED : M HICKSON

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SENT/RECD AT 15/1301Z JDG/MCH