

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (40)

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PIIS ← PS/MR RIFKIND
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
HD/PUSD (2)
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HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF

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MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR }
MR ILETT } TREASURY
MR LITTLER }
MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
SIR M PALLISER } CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY }
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO }
DIO }

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~~RESERVE CLERK~~

[Passed to E.R.]

[Typists a.a.]

BSB/FCO 002/16

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UNCLASSIFIED

FM BRASILIA 15:2140Z JUN 82

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 276 OF 15 JUN 82

MY TELNO 253: FALKLANDS; FURTHER PRESS COMMENT FROM BRAZIL

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF AN EXCELLENT EDITORIAL IN JORNAL DO BRASIL OF 15 JUNE 1982.

BEGINS

FUTILE SACRIFICE

THE GUNS FALL SILENT IN PORT STANLEY WHILE THE TERMS OF ARGENTINA'S SURRENDER ARE DISCUSSED. THE COUNTLESS MULTITUDES WHO THREE DAYS AGO CALLED EAGERLY FOR PEACE IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO IN THE PRESENCE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II ARE NOW HAVING THEIR WISH GRANTED. IT IS

Prime Minister

Work ready in full.

A.J.C. 16/6

OF POPE JOHN PAUL II ARE NOW HAVING THEIR WISH GRANTED. IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THESE SAME MULTITUDES WILL NOW SET ABOUT INVESTIGATING JUST WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO SO FAR, AND TO PAY SUCH A HIGH PRICE, TO REACH A POINT WHICH COULD BE FORECAST FROM THE THE START.

NOW THAT THE CONTEST OF AIMS HAS YIELDED ITS DECISION, THE MILITARY JUNTA IN BUENOS AIRES WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE SOME KIND OF SATISFACTION TO PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH IT DRAGGED SO HEEDLESSLY INTO WARLIKE ENTHUSIASM AND EXTREMES OF NATIONALISM.

THIS SAME MILITARY GOVERNMENT, OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, ALLOWED INFLATION TO REACH UNBEARABLE LEVELS, AS A RESULT OF DISPROPORTIONATE EXPENDITURE ON THE ARMED FORCES. THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR WAS KEPT PROMINENTLY ALIVE BY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY LEADERS - AND THE WAR WHICH WAS DUE TO BREAK OUT WITH CHILE BEGAN, EVEN MORE RASHLY, WITH ENGLAND - WHICH AS WELL AS BEING A CIVILISED COUNTRY IS A NATION WHICH ARGENTINA ALWAYS STROVE TO IMITATE IN ITS ARISTOCRATIC TRADITIONS.

THE BRITISH ARISTOCRACY, HOWEVER, NOT ONLY CULTIVATED ITS LANDS AND ITS COUNTRY HOUSES; IT ALSO CULTIVATED COMMONSENSE. THIS WAS REPUDIATED FROM THE START BY THE MILITARY JUNTA WHEN IT OPTED FOR AN AGGRESSION WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFICATION WHATSOEVER AGAINST A BRITISH TERRITORY.

IN THE COMBAT WHICH ENSUED, THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE COVERED ITSELF WITH MILITARY GLORY SEMICOLON BUT THIS GLORY WAS NOT REFLECTED ON THE REGIME AND WAS OBTAINED AT TOO HIGH A PRICE. IN THE FALKLAND ARCHIPELAGO IT WAS NOT THE BLOOD OF THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA WHICH WAS SHED, BUT THAT OF YOUNG MEN FROM ARGENTINA AND ENGLAND. THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WERE SACRIFICED TO THE VERY END IN A WAR WHICH THEY NEVER WANTED AND ABOUT WHICH THEY WERE NEVER CONSULTED, UNTIL IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE AND THE CIVIC TEMPERATURE HAS RISEN THROUGH A SPONTANEOUS EFFECT TO BE FOUND IN ANY COUNTRY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

TO KEEP UP THIS ARTIFICIAL ENTHUSIASM THE ARGENTINE JUNTA ADOPTED THE POLICY OF SYSTEMATIC LYING SEMICOLON LYING TO THE WORLD AND TO ITS OWN PEOPLE. MILITARY VICTORIES WERE INVENTED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS TOO WEAK TO TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH. WITHOUT LYING, HOW WOULD IT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO JUSTIFY AN UNJUSTIFIABLE AGGRESSION? WITHOUT TRANSFORMING ENGLAND AND ITS GOVERNMENT INTO MONSTROUS FIGURES, HOW WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO CONCEAL THE LONG DRAWN-OUT MONSTROSITY COMMITTED BY A BELLICOSE REGIME NOT ONLY AGAINST ITS OWN COUNTRY BUT AGAINST THE ENTIRE

CONCEAL THE LONG DRAWN-OUT MONSTROSITY COMMITTED BY A BELLICOSE REGIME NOT ONLY AGAINST ITS OWN COUNTRY BUT AGAINST THE ENTIRE REGION, WHICH WAS CHANGED FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT, AND WITHOUT ANY MOTIVE, INTO A THEATRE OF WAR?

FACED WITH SUCH RECKLESSNESS ENGLAND CONTINUED TO ACT AS A CIVILISED COUNTRY. IT WAS PRUDENT IN LAUNCHING COMBAT, ALLOWING TIME FOR ALL EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATION SEMICOLON IT CONTINUED TO BE PRUDENT WHEN WAR WAS ALREADY INEVITABLE, IN ORDER TO AVOID EXCESSIVE SACRIFICE ON THE ARGENTINE AS WELL AS THE BRITISH SIDE SEMICOLON AND IT WAS PRUDENT EVEN UP TO THE FINAL ASSAULT, CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ACHIEVE THE SAME OBJECTIVE. THIS DIFFERENCE IN BEHAVIOUR MUST HAVE BECOME EVIDENT EVEN TO THE ARGENTINE SOLDIERS, WHO SURRENDERED ON MANY OCCASIONS WITHOUT OFFERING FURTHER RESISTANCE. THESE SOLDIERS - MANY OF THEM RAW RECRUITS - WERE DRAGGED BLINDLY INTO A FUTILE WAR. WE KNOW THAT IF IT HAD DEPENDED ON GENERAL GALTIERI, ARGENTINA WOULD AS EASILY HAVE LOST 4,000 OR EVEN 40,000 MEN AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE THAN THAT. WHEN A WAR IS LAUNCHED IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER, IRRESPONSIBILITY TOUCHES ALL THE ACTIONS OF THOSE WHO LAUNCHED IT. SO WAS IT ALSO IN THE LAST WORLD WAR WHEN THE NAZI LEADER WAS READY TO ACCEPT THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF GERMANY, BECAUSE IN THAT WAY NO WITNESSES AMONG HIS FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN WOULD SURVIVE TO SEE THE QUOTE FINAL TRUTH UNQUOTE OF A WICKED REGIME.

THE ARGENTINE JUNTA HAS, THROUGHOUT THIS CONFLICT, PROVIDED AMPLE EVIDENCE OF ITS IMMATURETY. THAT IT WAS NOT EVEN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATION ITSELF WAS EVIDENT FROM THE START SEMICOLON AND IT WAS REVEALED WITH ABSOLUTE CLARITY WHEN MORE THAN A MILLION ARGENTINES GATHERED IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND CALLED FOR PEACE IN FRONT OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF OF THE CHURCH.

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN NOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ARGENTINA WHEN THE FINAL COUNT IS MADE OF WHAT THIS WAR COST AN ILL-TREATED AND ABUSED NATION. ARGENTINA IS NOT THE COUNTRY OF THOSE GENERALS AND ADMIRALS WHO ALONE WANTED THE WAR. THE TIME HAS COME TO REPLACE A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS FAILED MORE THAN ONCE, AND IN A CATASTROPHIC MANNER. BUT THE SAME REGIME WHICH BROUGHT ARGENTINA TO THIS GRIM PASS TOOK IT UPON ITSELF ALSO TO LIQUIDATE THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY, TO NEUTRALISE ITS INSTITUTIONS, AND TO DEMORALISE ITSELF BY MEANS OF EPISODES SUCH AS THE RECENT DEPOSITION OF GENERAL-PRESIDENT VIOLA.

IN THIS SENSE, ARGENTINA FACES THE FUTURE WITH EMPTY HANDS. ITS LEADERS MAY PERHAPS HAVE LEARNED AT LEAST WHAT COUNTRIES OF OUR

LEADERS MAY PERHAPS HAVE LEARNED AT LEAST WHAT COUNTRIES OF OUR
TIME NEED TO LEARN, THE ART OF LIVING TOGETHER ONE WITH ANOTHER.
MODERN WARFARE HAS BECOME EXCESSIVELY EXPENSIVE AND EXCESSIVELY
PAINFUL. IN ARGENTINA, WHO WILL PAY THE PRICE OF THE BLOOD THAT
HAS BEEN USELESSLY SPILLED?

ENDS

HARDING

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SENT/RECD 16:1350Z ED//DP