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GPS 300

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FM BUENOS AIRES 27/1540Z MAR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 111 OF 27 MARCH 1982

INFO FLASH PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

MODUK (NAVY) AND CINCFLEET

MY TELNO 110 : SOUTH GEORGIA

1. I GOT TO SEE NOT COSTA MENDEZ BUT ROS AT 1130 LOCAL (1430Z) AND SPOKE AS I HAD PROPOSED WITH SOME ASPERITY. I ALSO PRESSED FOR INFORMATION (WHICH HE PROFESSED NOT HAVE TO HAND) WHERE EXACTLY THE BAHIA PARAISO NOW IS AND WHETHER IT HAS, AS THE PRESS SUGGESTS, ARMED MARINES ON BOARD. I STRESSED THE NEED TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING OR LOCAL BRAVURA RESULTING IN AN UNINTENDED INCIDENT.

2. ROS HAD NO READY ANSWER TO MY ENQUIRIES AND COULD ONLY SAY THAT, FOLLOWING THE CINC'S MEETING YESTERDAY EVENING THERE WERE REVISED INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE WAS NOW PUTTING THESE INTO A MESSAGE TO YOU WHICH, HOPEFULLY, WOULD BE PASSED THROUGH ME LATER TODAY. I ENQUIRED WHETHER THIS MESSAGE WOULD CONTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL OR JUST A STATEMENT OF POSITION. ROS SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE FORMER. I URGED THAT IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHOUT FAIL TODAY, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CLARIFICATION OF THE APPARENT DISCREPANCIES ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE BAHIA PARAISO AND OF THE OTHER POINTS I HAD RAISED. I STRESSED THE GROWING DISQUIET IN LONDON OVER THE MINISTER'S FAILURE TO PUT THE STAY OF EXECUTION AFFORDED TO HIM TO CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE AND SUGGESTED THAT, IF THIS WOULD HELP HIM WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, I SHOULD SEE THE PRESIDENT MYSELF.

3. TO THE PRESS I HAVE SAID ON ENTRY THAT I WAS SEEING ROS AT MY REQUEST TO CLARIFY SOME APPARENT DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PRESS AND WHAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM COSTA MENDEZ. ON LEAVING I SAID ONLY THAT I EXPECTED TO BE CALLED IN LATER TODAY.

WILLIAMS

STANDARD

SAMD
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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