

GRS 553

RESTRICTED

AW 040/325/2		
25 FEB 1981		
DESK	INDEXER	REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

93

RESTRICTED

DESKBY 250930Z

FROM UKMIS NEW YORK 250029Z FEB 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 169 DATED 24 FEBRUARY 81

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)
WASHINGTON (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY).

MIPT: ANGLO ARGENTINE FALKLANDS NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AGREED COMMUNIQUE. EMBARGOED UNTIL 251500Z

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE GOVERNMENTS HELD A MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN NEW YORK ON 23 AND 24 FEBRUARY 1981 TO DISCUSS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS QUESTION, WITHIN THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK REFERRED TO IN THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THIS FOLLOWED THE TALKS THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HELD IN APRIL, 1980.

THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE DELEGATIONS WERE LED RESPECTIVELY BY MR. NICHOLAS RIDLEY, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE BRITISH FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AND COMODORO CARLOS R. CAVANDOLI, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP.

THE LEADER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION REAFFIRMED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO DOUBT ABOUT ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLANDS. HE THEN GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS VISIT TO THE ISLANDS IN NOVEMBER 1980 AND OF THE REACTION OF THE ISLANDERS TO THE VARIOUS SOVEREIGNTY OPTIONS DISCUSSED WITH THEM. HE WENT ON TO PROPOSE THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE SHOULD BE FROZEN FOR A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF YEARS, WITH BOTH SIDES RESERVING THEIR POSITION, TO ALLOW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS AND FOR THE PURSUIT OF JOINT PROJECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AND AROUND THE ISLANDS.

THE LEADER OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION, FOR HIS PART, REAFFIRMED THE ARGENTINE RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE ACCOUNT GIVEN BY MR. RIDLEY OF HIS VISIT TO THE ISLANDS, OF THE VARIOUS SOVEREIGNTY OPTIONS DISCUSSED WITH THE ISLANDERS AND OF THEIR REACTIONS. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR A FREEZE ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION, BOTH BECAUSE IT DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PRIMARY ARGENTINE REQUIREMENT FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE AND BECAUSE IT DISREGARDED THE REQUEST ADDRESSED TO BOTH PARTIES BY RESOLUTION 31/49 OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPEDITE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING THIS DISPUTE.

/AT

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

AT THE SAME TIME, WHILE REJECTING THE BRITISH PROPOSAL, HE MADE CLEAR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ANY INITIATIVE LEADING TO A FAVOURABLE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY.

THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION TOOK NOTE OF THE BRITISH REQUIREMENT THAT THE ISLANDERS' INTEREST IN PRESERVING THEIR TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE SHOULD BE RESPECTED.

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES BOTH DELEGATIONS CONCLUDED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE INFORMED, AND AGREED THAT THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AT AN EARLY DATE. THE TALKS WERE CONCLUDED IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

PARSONS

FALKLAND ISLANDS
STANDARD
S.A.T. 2
H.A.C.D.
U.N.B.
R.S.S.D.
C.A.D.
CABINET OFFICE

ADDL. DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS

2
RESTRICTED