

00 FCO DESKBY 281730Z

00 PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

00 MODUK NAVY

00 CINCFLEET

GRS 580

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 28/1730Z

FM BUENOS AIRES 28/1500Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 116 OF 28 MARCH 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR), MODUK NAVY AND CINCFLEET

**IMMEDIATE**  
ADVANCE COPY

*Head Dept*  
*Head Admin*  
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*Mr Giftard*  
*Mr Luce*  
*Cabinet Office*  
*No 10*  
*Rc*

MIPT : SOUTH GEORGIA: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE:

QUOTE

EXCELLENCY :

THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON ST PETER'S ISLAND IN THE SOUTH GEORGIAS ARE BEING FOLLOWED BY MY GOVERNMENT WITH CLOSE ATTENTION. I AM CONVINCED THAT BOTH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND YOUR EXCELLENCY SHARE OUR CONCERN AND THIS IS WHY I AM SENDING THIS MESSAGE WITH THE OBJECT OF DESPELLING ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT MY GOVERNMENT'S MOTIVES.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP OF WORKERS DISEMBARKED AT LEITH ARE OF A PRIVATE AND PEACEFUL CHARACTER BASED ON THE UNDISPUTED FACT THAT THEY WERE KNOWN IN ADVANCE BY HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND IN ANY CASE ON THE FACT THAT THEY ARE BEING CARRIED OUT ON TERRITORY SUBJECT TO THE SPECIAL REGIME AGREED IN 1971 BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE AND GREAT BRITAIN. IT IS MOREOVER WITHIN YOUR EXCELLENCY'S KNOWLEDGE THAT THESE TERRITORIES ARE CONSIDERED BY THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AS HER OWN AND THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE ABOUT THEM HAS BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN ITS RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS. YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE.

HOWEVER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS REACTED IN TERMS WHICH CONSTITUTE A VIRTUAL ULTIMATUM BACKED BY THE THREAT OF MILITARY

ACTION IN THE FORM OF THE DESPATCH OF THE NAVAL WARSHIP ENDURANCE AND A REQUIRMENT FOR THE PEREMPTORILY IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF THE ARGENTINE WORKERS FROM THE ISLAND. THESE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT A REAGARD TO THE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS MENTIONED ABOVE. THE REACTON TO WHICH I REFER THUS CONSTITUTES A DISPROPORTIONATE AND PROVOCATIVE RESPONSE AGGRAVATED FOR HAVING RECEIVED WIDE DIFFUSION IN THE PRESS WHICH HAS HAD A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENTS AND WHICH IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN THIS CONNECTION I CANNOT BUT REFER TO THE COMMENTS PUBLISHED IN THE BRITISH PRESS MANY OF WHICH HAVE HAD AN AGGRAVATING EFFECT AND IN ANY CASE DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DESIRABLE CLIMATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS ATTITUDE MY GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY ADOPT THOSE MEASURES WHICH PRUDENCE AND ITS RIGHTS DEMAND. IN THIS CONTEXT THE ARGENTINE WORKERS IN SOUTH GEORGIA MUST REMAIN THERE SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO DO SO.

I FEEL I MUST POINT OUT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE PERSISTENT LACK OF RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM OF THE TITLES TO SOVEREIGNTY WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS OVER THE MALVINAS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT MANY YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH ARGENTINA HAS GIVEN ADEQUATE EVIDENCE OF ITS WISH TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE BY PEACEFUL MEANS WITH IMAGINATION AND PATIENCE WHICH TODAY HAVE LASTED FOR OVER FIFTEEN YEARS.

TO RESOLVE THE PRESENT SITUATION I CONSIDER IT NECESSARY THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD DISPLAY, AS DOES THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, THE POLITICAL WILL TO NEGOTIATE NOT ONLY THE CURRENT PROBLEM WHICH CONCERN US BUT ALSO THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE BEARING IN MIND THAT SO LONG AS THIS CONTINUES OUR RELATIONS WILL BE OPEN TO SIMILAR DISTURBANCES AND CRISES.

YOUR EXCELLENCY CAN BE SURE OF COUNTING UPON VTHE COOPERATION AND GOODWILL OF MY GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION . COURTESY ENDING.

UNQUOTE.

WILLIAMS  
NNKN

SENT AT 28/1543Z JDG