

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

~~(30)~~ ~~(35)~~ (37)

**IMMEDIATE**

PS (6)  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE

ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
ED/DEF D  
ED/NEWS D  
ED/UND  
ED/PLANNING STAFF  
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60  
RESIDENT CLERK  
HD/SED

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST  
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
PS/CHANCELLOR )  
SIR K COUZENS )  
MR LITTLER )  
MR HAWTIN )  
MR PERETZ ) TREASURY  
MR ILETT )  
MR McINTYRE )  
MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN  
DIO CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO " "  
SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE  
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

**ADVANCE COPY**

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MADRID 031500Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 239 OF 3 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO MODUK(DI3 WEST) UKREP BRUSSELS

**THE FALKLANDS: SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.**

1. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S FIRST STATEMENT ON THE FALKLANDS CRISIS, JUST AFTER THE ARGENTINE INVASION, SUPPORTED ARGENTINA ON THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY BUT MADE A GENERAL CONDEMNATION OF THE USE OF FORCE (MY TELNO 222). THEIR SECOND STATEMENT ON 2 MAY (MY TELNO 234) REAFFIRMED SPAIN'S POSITION ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE BUT SPECIFICALLY LINKED THE CONDEMNATION OF THE USE OF FORCE WITH THE BRITISH AIR ATTACK ON PORT STANLEY. IT MADE NO REFERENCE TO INITIAL ARGENTINE AGGRESSION OR TO RESOLUTION 502. THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS (MY TELNO 237), IF REPORTED CORRECTLY, CRITICISED BRITAIN'S PERFORMANCE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND SUGGESTED THAT SPAIN'S OFFER TO MEDIATE HAD BEEN PUT TO ARGENTINA ALONE.

IF REPORTED CORRECTLY, CRITICISED BRITAIN'S PERFORMANCE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND SUGGESTED THAT SPAIN'S OFFER TO MEDIATE HAD BEEN PUT TO ARGENTINA ALONE.

2. PEREZ LLORCA MAY YET ATTEMPT TO PUT A FAVOURABLE GLOSS ON THESE STATEMENTS AND TO ARGUE THAT, IN ITS SUPPORT FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, SPAIN REMAINS NEUTRAL. BUT FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE SPANIARDS HAVE NOW COME OFF THE FENCE AND RANGED THEMSELVES WITH ARGENTINA. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THEIR ACTING OUT OF SIMPLE IGNORANCE. THE LOCAL MEDIA, WHILE INCLINED TOWARDS ARGENTINA, HAS REFLECTED MAJOR BRITISH MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS. I HAVE MADE OUR POSITION AMPLY CLEAR TO PEREZ LLORCA ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, AS WELL AS TO OTHER MINISTERS.

3. WHY HAVE THEY APPARENTLY NOW DECIDED TO ABANDON THEIR PREVIOUS NEUTRALITY? WITHOUT DOUBT THE UNDERLYING MOTIVE IS THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION. THIS AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDES COMMON GROUND AGAINST 'BRITISH COLONIALISM'. WITHIN SPAIN THERE IS COMPLETE SOLIDARITY ON THIS. THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POPULAR FEELING, WITH CAMPAIGNING FOR THE IMPORTANT REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN ANDALUCIA AT THE END OF THIS MONTH NOW IN FULL SWING. EMOTIONAL TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA ALSO REMAIN STRONG. THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SIDE OPENLY WITH BRITAIN MUST HAVE INCREASED THE TEMPTATION TO DISPLAY TRADITIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, PARTICULARLY AS SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA HERE INCREASES. RESENTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES REMAINS CONSIDERABLE, IF LATENT, HERE. NEVERTHELESS, THE LATEST SPANISH STATEMENTS ARE UNHAPPILY TIMED, WITH PEREZ LLORCA DUE TO VISIT WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AND WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON AMERICAN BASES IN SPAIN CONTINUING.

4. PEREZ LLORCA AND OTHER MINISTERS NO DOUBT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM NATO, FROM THE EC AND FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. BUT PEREZ LLORCA HAD ALREADY WARNED ME OF DIFFERING VIEWS INSIDE HIS OWN MINISTRY, LET ALONE WITHIN THE CABINET (MY TELNO 208). THE FACT REMAINS THAT SPANISH POLICY IS SHIFTING WITH EVENTS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. THE BRITISH MEASURES AGAINST PORT STANLEY AND THE ARGENTINE CRUISER HAVE ADDED TO THE PRESSURES ON A WEAK, AND PERHAPS DIVIDED, GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW PUBLIC OPINION AND PLUMP FOR THE ARGENTINES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW FAR THIS APPARENT IDENTIFICATION WITH ARGENTINA IS A COSMETIC AND TEMPORARY DEVICE TO HELP OVERCOME DOMESTIC CRITICISM IN THIS CRITICAL ELECTORAL PERIOD BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRIALS OF THE 23 FEBRUARY PLOTTERS. BUT I SHALL LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY OF REMINDING MINISTERS HERE OF THE HAZARDS OF THIS COURSE FOR THEIR EUROPEAN POLICY. MY COMMUNITY AND

ON A WEAK, AND PERHAPS DIVIDED, GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW PUBLIC  
UNION AND PLUMP FOR THE ARGENTINES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN  
HOW FAR THIS APPARENT IDENTIFICATION WITH ARGENTINA IS A  
COSMETIC AND TEMPORARY DEVICE TO HELP OVERCOME DOMESTIC  
CRITICISM IN THIS CRITICAL ELECTORAL PERIOD BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF  
THE TRIALS OF THE 23 FEBRUARY PLOTTERS. BUT I SHALL LOSE NO  
OPPORTUNITY OF REMINDING MINISTERS HERE OF THE HAZARDS OF THIS  
COURSE FOR THEIR EUROPEAN POLICY. MY COMMUNITY AND  
AMERICAN COLLEAGUES HAVE ALSO BEEN STEADFAST ON THIS POINT.

PARSONS

NNNN

CCN: PARA 2 LINE 6 PLEASE READ "TOWARDS ARGENTINA"

SENT/RECD AT 03/1542Z PJ/

WW

ADVANCE COPY