

GPS 256
UNCLASSIFIED
FM BUENOS AIRES 271535Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 112 OF 27 MARCH 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

SOUTH GEORGIA : DAVIDOFF

1. I RECEIVED FROM DAVIDOFF YESTERDAY A FORMAL LETTER GIVING HIS VERSION OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE LANDING OF HIS SALVAGE PARTY ON SOUTH GEORGIA AND RESERVING HIS RIGHTS. HE ASSERTS THAT THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF THESE EVENTS BUT APPEARED NOT TO HAVE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF THEM IN ITS APPRAISAL OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.
2. THE LETTER DESCRIBES THE SIGNING OF HIS CONTRACT WITH SALVESENS AND SUMMARISES SOME OF ITS CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE STIPULATION THAT NO DISTURBANCE SHOULD BE CAUSED AND NO WILDLIFE HUNTED. HE STATES THAT HE INFORMED THE EMBASSY IN WRITING IN DECEMBER THAT A SMALL GROUP OF HIS MEN WAS GOING TO TAKE AN INVENTORY OF THE EQUIPMENT, AND THAT ON 9 MARCH HE INFORMED THE EMBASSY IN WRITING THAT 41 MEN WOULD BE PROCEEDING WITH THE SALVAGE OPERATION. HE CONCLUDES THAT IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT, INCLUDING THE COST OF EXTENDING HIS OPTION WITH SALVESENS, AND THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS INVOLVED, HE RESERVES ALL LEGAL RIGHTS.
3. THE TEXT WAS ALSO SENT TO THE LOCAL PRESS AND IS PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HERE THIS MORNING. THESE VERSIONS INCLUDE A LIST OF 39 NAMES OF THOSE ALLEGEDLY DESPATCHED TO SOUTH GEORGIA.
4. NEITHER THE LETTER NOR THE PRESS VERSIONS REFER TO OUR OWN INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM REGARDING IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES.
5. I HAVE SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE LETTER, WITHOUT PREJUDICE AS TO ITS CONTENTS.

WILLIAMS
STANDARD
SAM D
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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