

P.A. (4)



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BRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

5 February, 1982

P R Fearn Esq
South American Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
LONDON SW 1

copy to Mr. ...
Mr. Clark 13. 1112
Mr. B. ...
Mr. Swatt
11/2

Dear Robin

I fear that (A) is our only recourse. It is likely that the Argentines will do the breaking off of a period for Islands agreement to any discussion of ...

FAKLANDS TALKS

Since I shall have no further occasion to write confidentially before we meet in New York, it may be worth setting down my current impression of what we are up against, even though I do not yet have your reactions to the "Bout de Papier".

2. I fear all the indications are that Anaya (probably with Galtieri fully agreeing) has got into the driving seat in regard to the Malvinas negotiations and has ruled, in effect, that a test period should be allowed to see if negotiation gets anywhere; if it does not bring results then other options should be reopened.

3. The period allowed, I now suspect, may be up to the 150th Anniversary of the British occupation of the Islands in January 1833 - ie January 1983. If I am right, we should decide between

- (a) playing ball (presumably not a political possibility for us);
- (b) sitting it out and waiting to see if the Argentines really do anything;
- (c) recapturing the initiative either with a constructive suggestion (but what?) or by doing the breaking off ourselves.

4. As you know, I have a sneaking feeling that, if we cannot play ball, we might in the end do better to come clean, rather than let the Argentines find out for themselves that all our professions of negotiating in good faith were, in fact, hollow. However that is not for me to decide.

What



5. What I must do is to give fair warning that, nice chap though he is, Enrique Ros will not, I think, be able to connive in inconclusive discussion in the way Carlos Cavándoli did. I expect his brief to be very circumscribed and I am not at all sure that he will not, apart from expecting a yea or nay answer on the negotiating group idea, have a more or less detailed agenda for the group in his brief case.

you are

AW

Anthony Williams

cc;

(Personal)

HE Mr R M Hunt CMG
FORT STANLEY