

Secret / Staff

Disputed on 12/22/3. J. H. Jones 24

Mr Ure

PS/Mr Luce

PS

Minister

Private Secretary

M. L. W. agrees with the draft tel.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Agreed draft  
this can  
wait till  
Tuesday

It would be useful if it could be despatched soon, ideally before the weekend.

J. H. Jones 19/3

Problem

- A 1. Falkland Islands Councillors have now endorsed the text of
- B the message the Secretary of State proposes to send to the Argentine Foreign Minister seeking his acceptance of the ground rules for a continuation of negotiations on the dispute.

Recommendation

2. I recommend that our Ambassador in Buenos Aires should be instructed to deliver the Secretary of State's message to Dr Costa Mendez. I submit a draft telegram.

Aw 040/325/1		
RECEIVED IN BUENOS AIRES 25 MAR 1982		
INDEX		REGISTRY
PA	Action Taken	

Background and Argument

3. Councillors' endorsement of the terms and purpose of the Secretary of State's proposed message to Dr Costa Mendez reflects their own concern at the need to continue the negotiating process in order to avoid the consequences of a breakdown. However the caveats which Councillors have entered on the treatment of the sovereignty issue in future negotiations serve only to illustrate the distance between our and the Argentine position. It is unlikely that negotiations within the framework of a Permanent Negotiating Commission would make progress or would last long.

4. Our objective in sending the message and in proposing its publication is therefore also the tactical one of ensuring that the onus for a breakdown is seen to lie with the Argentines. We may hope that this will at least cause the Argentines to pause for thought. But we cannot be optimistic that they will be able to accept the Secretary of State's message as a basis for future negotiations. They would have the greatest difficulty in defending this against a public opinion which has been led to expect rapid progress on the precise terms of the Argentine proposals in New York and with the sole objective of settling the details of a transfer of sovereignty. We need therefore to work on the assumption that the Argentine reply will be negative and that they may resort at an early stage to measures of retaliation.

5. This view is reinforced by evidence from secret sources that, unless a satisfactory reply from HMG meeting Argentine conditions is received by the end of March at the latest, early action to withdraw Argentine services to the Islands may be

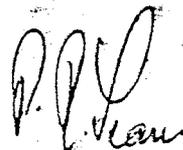
received partly

/taken.

taken. However provocative such a step may appear at this stage, it would be unwise to discount the possibility: it seems clear that the Argentines have developed a dangerous head of steam on this issue. It would therefore be right for the Secretary of State's message to be delivered soon.

6. If we accept the risk of an early withdrawal of Argentine services, in particular the air service, it would also be inadvisable to wait for an Argentine reply before considering both the scope for replacing them and the need to reassure public opinion both here and in the Islands of our resolve to support the Islands. The situation on the Falklands dispute is to be discussed in OD in due course. But we may be faced with decisions before then and I shall therefore be recommending separately that:

- (a) The Secretary of State should minute the Defence Secretary seeking his agreement, on a contingency basis, to maintaining HMS Endurance on station in the area for the time being;
- (b) The Secretary of State should also minute his OD colleagues covering a paper by officials (copy of draft attached) seeking political and financial authority to carrying forward on an urgent basis contingency plans on a replacement of services to the Islands.



P R Fearn  
South America Dept

18 March 1982

cc PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
Mr Giffard  
Defence Dept  
Finance Dept  
UND  
SED  
News Dept

*The above was drafted in  
close consultation with me and  
reflects my own views. J. Burre  
18/3.*

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

Precedence/Deskby

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

CZC	1	ZCZC
RS	2	GRS
LASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
AVEATS	4	
ESKBY	5	
MFCO	6	FM FCO MARCH 82
RE/ADD	7	TO PRIORITY BUENOS AIRES
EL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	INFO PRIORITY PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)
	10	INFO SAVING WASHINGTON
	11	INFO SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK
	12	MY TELNOS 29 AND 30 TO PORT STANLEY (NOT TO ALL):
	13	REPLY TO ARGENTINE PROPOSAL
	14	1. Now that Councillors have confirmed acceptance of text
	15	(Port Stanley telno 34), please deliver message in my first TUR
	16	in writing to Costa Mendez. If asked about our reaction to those
	17	parts of the Argentine proposal dealing with time-limits,
	18	periodicity, etc, you should say that our view remains as set
	19	out by Mr Luce in New York: that it would be unnecessarily
	20	restricting to impose this straightjacket on the Negotiating
	21	Commission before it even starts work. The main consideration is
///	22	that both sides should have the will to make progress through
//	23	negotiation. The first meeting should set the future timetable.
/	24	2. Please advise reactions by immediate telegram and any other
	25	

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword indication
File number	Dept SAMD	Distribution STANDARD SAMD UND SED DEFENCE DEPT
Drafted by (Block capitals) P R FEARN		Additional distribution - FALKLAND ISLANDS
Telephone number 233 3760		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats  
CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

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indication of Argentine intentions.  
CARRINGTON  
NNNN

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telegram

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Catchword