

Argentina

P.S. NO 10. DOWNING STREET.

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OO PORT STANLEY

GRS 335

CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 081830Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 30 OF 8 MARCH
INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES,
INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELNO 27: CONSIDERATION OF ARGENTINE PROPOSAL

1. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING HOW WE SHOULD NEXT PROCEED IN ORDER TO PLAY OUR HAND TO BEST TACTICAL ADVANTAGE. WE WANT TO AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES OF A BREAKDOWN. BUT IT WILL CLEARLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS AGAINST THE PRESENT BACKGROUND OF THREATENING NOISES FROM ARGENTINA. IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO CONTINUE AND IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY PROSPECT OF CARRYING WITH US PUBLIC OPINION BOTH HERE AND IN THE ISLANDS, WE SHALL NEED TO ESTABLISH ACCEPTABLE GROUND RULES AND TO MAKE THESE PUBLIC.

2. I THEREFORE PROPOSE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE LINES OF THE DRAFT IN MIFT. BEFORE I DO SO, IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO HAVE COUNCILLORS' VIEWS AND NECESSARY TO HAVE THEIR CONFIRMATION THAT, IN THE EVENT OF THE ARGENTINES PROVIDING A SATISFACTORY REPLY, NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED WITHIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK DISCUSSED IN NEW YORK. WE APPRECIATE THAT COUNCILLORS MAY NOW HAVE DISPERSED BUT WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. WE HOPE YOU CAN CARRY THE COUNCILLORS WITH YOU ON THIS AS WE HAVE NO WISH TO BREAK OFF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. IF THE COUNCILLORS FAVOUR THE IDEA OF SENDING A CORRECTIVE MESSAGE OF THIS KIND BUT FEEL THAT THE WORDING IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO MEET THEIR NEEDS, YOU SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THIS AND REPORT BACK. CLEARLY WE CANNOT INVITE THE COUNCILLORS TO DRAFT MY MESSAGES TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER AND, IF THE WORDING IS TO STRONG,

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THERE WILL BE NO PROSPECT OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE ARGENTINES. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION THAT, IF THE TALKS DO BREAK DOWN, IT WAS NOT HMG AND THE ISLANDERS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE. BUT WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE REJECTING WITHOUT VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT ANY DRAFTING POINTS THE COUNCILLORS MIGHT WISH TO PUT TO YOU.

CARRINGTON

DIST:

STANDARD

S A M D

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ADDITIONAL DISTN
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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