

BAFO 111/22

CONFIDENTIAL

TELELETTER

GRS : 350

TO

FCO

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FILE/REF

FOLLOWING FOR

COPIES TO

FROM

FALKLANDS: PRESS COMMENT

1. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER DR CAMILION HAS MADE SOME MORE REMARKS TO THE PRESS ABOUT THE ISLANDS.

2. IN THE COURSE OF A WIDE-RANGING TALK WITH JOURNALISTS ON HIS RETURN FROM A MEETING WITH HIS URUGUAYAN COUNTERPART, HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT ON THE SOVEREIGNTY PROBLEM, QUOTE.....WE ARE ARRIVING AT THE MOMENT OF MATURATION UNQUOTE (LITERAL TRANSLATION SEMI COLON THE SENSE HERE IS THAT THE TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR SOME SIGNIFICANT ACTION). HE ADDED THAT QUOTE IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO SPEED UP OUR EFFORTS TO END THIS ANACHRONISTIC PROBLEM UNQUOTE. CAMILION GAVE NO FURTHER INDICATION OF WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, BUT HIS REMARKS SUGGEST SOME SORT OF IMPENDING INITIATIVE.

Mr Egan
Some evidence at last!
The Chilean report
seems like typical
Beagle pot-stirring.

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26/5/81
CSB

PA
26/5/81

Mr A South
CSB
26/5

<i>AW 040/325/2</i>		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
26 MAY 1981		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
:		C C BRIGHT ESQ, SAMD, FCO

DATE : 22 MAY 1981

SANTIAGO, PORT STANLEY (BY BAG)

A R MURRAY, BUENOS AIRES

3. THE ISLANDS ARE ALSO IN THE NEWS AGAIN FOR A SEPARATE REASON - THE RECENT REMARKS BY A CHILEAN ADMIRAL THAT THE DEFENCE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC HAD AS ITS FOUNDATION THE QUADRILATERAL FORMED BY SOUTH AFRICA, BRAZIL, UK IN THE FALKLANDS, AND CHILE. THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO ARGENTINA, AND THE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE UK IN THE FALKLANDS (BY THAT NAME) HAS PRODUCED SHARP COMMENT HERE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN CALLED THE ADMIRAL'S REMARKS (DESCRIBED BY THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR AS NOT OFFICIALLY APPROVED) ABSURD, AND CAMILION HAS SAID THAT ANY CHILEAN PRETENSIONS TO SOUTH ATLANTIC SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH WERE A MATTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR ARGENTINA, WOULD RULE OUT PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHILE.

4. AN IMAGINATIVE COMMENTATOR IN LA PRENSA HAS TODAY LINKED THE RECENT HMG NOTICE ON OIL EXPLORATION IN MAGALLANES ESTE BLOCK WITH THE CHILEAN ADMIRAL'S REMARKS, AND SUGGESTS ONCE MORE THAT THERE IS SOME ANGLO/CHILEAN UNDERSTANDING (QUOTE A PINGER MOVEMENT UNQUOTE) AT WORK IN THE COMPLICATED SOUTHERN DISPUTE. THE AMBASSADOR HAPPENED TO TOUCH ON THE ADMIRAL'S REMARKS AND THE LOCAL REACTION, IN A CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS WITH ENRIQUE ROS AT THE MFA THIS MORNING. IT WAS CLEAR THAT ROS AT LEAST GIVES NO CREDENCE TO THE SUGGESTIONS THAT THE UK WOULD EITHER PARTICIPATE IN A SECURITY PACT INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICA, OR CONSPIRE WITH THE CHILEANS TO MUDDY THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WATERS FURTHER.

SIGNED : A R MURRAY

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VNNN

SENT AT 22/1653Z JDC

REC'D AT 22/1653Z RAF