

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30/31)

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/FUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST ✓
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLE)
MR HAWKIN)
MR PERETZ) TREASURY
MR ILETT)
MR McINTYRE)

ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
ED/DEF D
ED/NEWS D
ED/INT
ED/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS 760
RESIDENT CLERK

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN
DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERRY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SARG/DIO " "

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

ms

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

PP THE HAGUE

PP UKREP BRUSSELS

PP UKMIS GENEVA

GRPS 350

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FM DUBLIN 051100Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 130 OF 05 MAY 1982

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK
IMMEDIATE INFO TO PARIS, COPENHAGEN, BRUSSELS, ROME, BONN, ATHENS,
LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE, UKREP BRUSSELS AND UKMIS GENEVA

MY TELNOS 124, 125 AND 128: FALKLANDS: IRISH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

1. DESPITE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENTS OF 2 AND 4 MAY
(MY TELNOS 120 AND 124) THERE HAS NOW BEEN A SLIGHT EASING OF THEIR
POSITION. THE TAOISEACH TOLD THE DAIL YESTERDAY THAT COMMENTS
MADE AT A LOCAL FIANNA FAIL PARTY MEETING BY THE IRISH
DEFENCE MINISTER ON 3 MAY (THAT "BRITAIN WAS NOW THE AGGRESSOR"
IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS) HAD BEEN A SPONTANEOUS REACTION TO
THE SINKING OF THE GENERAL BELGRANO, ASSOCIATED IN MR POWER'S

IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY

IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS) HAD BEEN A SPONTANEOUS REACTION TO THE SINKING OF THE GENERAL BELGRANO, ASSOCIATED IN MR POWER'S MIND WITH THE ACCIDENTAL SINKING OF THE IRISH TRAWLER SHARELGA BY A BRITISH SUBMARINE (SEE MY TELNO 126, NOT TO ALL). MR HAUGHEY SAID HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT STATEMENTS FROM MINISTERS THAT WERE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY.

2. EXPLAINING THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO EC SANCTIONS DURING A TV INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT, THE TAOISEACH SAID: "SANCTIONS DID NOT SUCCEED IN THEIR OBJECTIVE. WITHDRAWING COULD CREATE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE". WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHETHER IT WAS RIGHT TO SINK THE BELGRANO, MR HAUGHEY REPLIED: "I WOULDN'T PASS ANY JUDGEMENT ON THAT IN A WAR SITUATION WHO CAN SAY WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG."

3. WE CAN TAKE SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MR HAUGHEY'S STEADIER LINE AND THE CHANGE IN DIRECTION WHEN HE SAID THAT IRELAND WOULD NOT UNILATERALLY ABANDON A COMMUNITY LINE ON SANCTIONS BEFORE THEY EXPIRE ON 17 MAY (MY TELNO 128). THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS SHOW THAT HE ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY. THERE WAS EVIDENCE FOR THIS YESTERDAY WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER ATTACKED ME IN EMOTIONAL TERMS AT A RECEPTION FOR PRESIDENT REDDY. AS HE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY HIS REMARKS ARE NOT WORTH REPORTING. I HAD THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE COULD ONLY SPEAK AS HE DID BECAUSE HE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY MAKING IN THIS MATTER.

FIGG

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SENT/RECD AT 051230Z CB:JW

TYPLS 15