

Bullard (4. Copies)
FLASH

ZZ UKREP BRUSSELS

GRS 600

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 291330Z MAR 82

TO FLASH UKREP BRUSSELS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 258 OF 29 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK NAVY

FOR BULLARD

MY TELNO 256 : SOUTH GEORGIA

1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF MESSAGE TO COSTA MENDEZ:
BEGINS.

OUR AMBASSADOR HAS PASSED TO ME YOUR MESSAGE OF 28 MARCH ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH GEORGIA. I WISH TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE DANGEROUS POSITION WHICH HAS NOW DEVELOPED HAS IN NO WAY BEEN OF OUR SEEKING. AS OUR AMBASSADOR HAS EMPHASISED TO YOU, OUR OBJECTIVE THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN TO SEEK A SOLUTION WHICH BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS CAN ACCEPT. A CONFRONTATION, WHICH COULD HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES AND WHICH WOULD SERIOUSLY PREJUDICE OUR ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE WHOLE FALKLANDS ISSUE THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION, IS IN NEITHER OF OUR INTERESTS.

WE HAVE THEREFORE TO WORK TOGETHER, WITH URGENCY, IN ORDER TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT YOUR MESSAGE CONTAINED NO CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS TO THIS END. THE ESSENCE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT ARGENTINE PERSONNEL, PURSUING A NORMAL COMMERCIAL CONTRACT, HAVE ENTERED BRITISH TERRITORY WITHOUT PERMISSION AND HAVE REFUSED EITHER TO LEAVE OR TO REGULARISE THEIR PRESENCE. I NOTE WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE 1971 COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT. THERE IS HOWEVER NOTHING IN THE TEXT OF THIS AGREEMENT WHICH APPLIES TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES; AND, EVEN IF THERE WERE, IT WOULD NOT ABSOLVE ARGENTINE CITIZENS FROM COMPLYING WITH IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES.

I HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED TO YOU THAT IF THE PARTY WERE TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AT GRYTVIKEN IN ORDER TO COMPLETE NORMAL IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES, WE WOULD ISSUE THE REQUIRED AUTHORISATION. YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN THIS UP. BUT I CAN SEE NO WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE UNLESS WE CAN AGREE WITH YOU A METHOD BY WHICH THE PRESENCE OF THE PARTY CAN BE REGULARISED. I THEREFORE AGAIN URGE YOU TO ARRANGE FOR THE PARTY OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO APPLY TO THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES AT GRYTVIKEN FOR APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION. PROVIDED THIS IS DONE AND PROVIDED THAT A FIRM DATE IS GIVEN FOR THE COMPLETION OF THEIR CONTRACT WITH AN ASSURANCE THAT THE ARGENTINE PERSONNEL WILL THEN LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA, YOU SHOULD BE IN NO DOUBT THAT THE NECESSARY PERMISSION WILL BE GIVEN. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE THIS PROPOSAL THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT, IN MAKING IT, I AM SEEKING TO DEMONSTRATE AGAIN OUR DETERMINATION TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM IN A REALISTIC AND FLEXIBLE MANNER. I DO NOT SEE HOW I CAN GO FURTHER.

IT WILL HOWEVER BE IMPORTANT THAT STEPS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF POSSIBLE NAVAL CONFRONTATION. REPORTS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DENIED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF WARSHIPS OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY TO THE AREA, HAVE AROUSED STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS COUNTRY. I NOTE WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT HMS ENDURANCE. YOU WILL HOWEVER BE AWARE THAT THIS ICE-PATROL VESSEL HAS THE NORMAL DUTY TO ASSIST IN THE POLICING OF BRITISH TERRITORY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. YOU WILL ALSO BE AWARE THAT HMS ENDURANCE HAS TAKEN NO ACTION TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION BUT HAS REMAINED AT ANCHOR AT GRYTVIKEN.

I WISH TO REPEAT THAT, IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF SEEKING A RESOLUTION TO OUR SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THEIR DEPENDENCIES. IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR EITHER OF US TO UNDERRATE THE DIFFICULTIES OF THIS. ONCE, HOWEVER, WE HAVE DISPOSED OF THE SOUTH GEORGIA PROBLEM AND THE IMMEDIATE HEAT HAS BEEN DISSIPATED, IT WOULD BE MY INTENTION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL ON NEGOTIATING PROCEDURE PUT FORWARD AT THE NEW YORK TALKS.
ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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