

TOP SECRET (2)

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

43154 - 1

GRS 422

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 041700Z JAN 82
TO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2 OF 4 JANUARY
INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY.

Aw 040/325/4		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18		
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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

MY TELNO 150 TO PORT STANLEY: SOUTH GEORGIA: ARGENTINE SHIP'S VISIT

1. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO ESCALATE THIS AFFAIR AND THE IRAZA MAY NOW HAVE LEFT SOUTH GEORGIAN WATERS, WE ARE CONCERNED TO BRING HOME TO THE ARGENTINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE UNWISDOM OF ACTIONS OF THIS KIND, BOTH IN ORDER TO PREVENT AN INCIDENT ARISING ON THIS OCCASION AND TO DISCOURAGE ANY REPETITION. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION PLEASE THEREFORE SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SPEAK ON THE FOLLOWING LINES.
2. THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSEL IRAZA WAS PRESENT IN STROMNESS BAY, SOUTH GEORGIA, ON 23 DECEMBER WITHOUT THE PRIOR CLEARANCE WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR NAVAL VESSELS. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT PERSONS FROM THE VESSEL EFFECTED AN ILLEGAL LANDING AT LEITH HARBOUR. WE BELIEVE THAT DAVIDOFF MAY HAVE BEEN ON BOARD THE VESSEL WITH A VIEW TO TAKING AN INVENTORY OF THE SCRAP MATERIAL WHICH HE IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING, AND THAT HE MAY INTEND TO GO ALSO TO GRITVIKEN. CAN THE ARGENTINES OFFER ANY CLARIFICATION?
3. UNLESS THE ARGENTINES DENY THAT THE IRAZA WAS IN SOUTH GEORGIA WATERS, YOU SHOULD THEN DELIVER A FORMAL PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST TERMS AT THIS VIOLATION OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY AND WARN AGAINST THE UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES WHICH COULD FOLLOW FROM A RE,, CONSEQUENCES WHICH WOULD SURELY BE AS UNWELCOME TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AS TO HMG.

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FCO TELEGRAM NUMBER 002 OF 4 JANUARY PARA 3 FIFTH LINE.
PLEASE AMEND RE TO READ REPETITION REPEAT REPETITION. ERROR
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43154 - 1

4. YOU SHOULD IN ANY CASE GO ON TO SAY THAT ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSELS INTENDING TO ENTER SOUTH GEORGIA WATERS (UNLESS THEY ARE SIMPLY EXERCISING RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE) MUST SEEK PRIOR AUTHORITY BEFORE DOING SO. ARGENTINE CIVILIAN VESSELS, AND INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO LAND IN SOUTH GEORGIA MUST PRESENT THEMSELVES AT GRYTVIKEN, WHICH IS THE PORT OF ENTRY, AND SEEK CLEARANCE THERE, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN PRIOR AUTHORITY TO LAND ELSEWHERE. FAILURE BY ARGENTINE VESSELS OR PERSONNEL TO OBSERVE THESE REQUIREMENTS IS BOUND TO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ANGLO-ARGENTINE RELATIONS AND ON THE ATMOSPHERE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT IF ANY FUTURE ATTEMPT IS MADE TO LAND AT GRYTVIKEN OR ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH GEORGIA WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORITY, HMG RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION MAY BE NECESSARY. IF DAVIDOFF WISHES TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE SCRAP, IT IS UP TO HIM TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS TO INSPECT AND COLLECT IT, AND TO COMPLY WITH THE LAWS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES.

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