

From: **RESTRICTED** *R. Harding*, Director Sales 2

(13)



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Dear Peter,

- 1) cc. *R. Harding*
- 2) *Mr. Duffan* } cc. B.A.
Mr. Duffan } + back to me pl. from
Mr. Duffan }
Mr. R. Harding mentioned this today. It is a
useful contribution, according
with Dr. Ortiz de Rozas' line.
The catch is at 'x' below.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

For what it is worth I thought you might like to know of two conversations I had during a three day visit to the Argentine last week in which the topic of the Falkland Islands cropped up.

The first occasion was at a dinner with Admiral Bessola who is an electronics expert but currently Director of Naval Welfare. He is an old friend and certainly not a political creature. Over dinner he made the point to me that in Argentine eyes the Falkland Islands were becoming of less immediate importance and that the feeling was increasingly becoming one of "time will resolve the problem". I think this perhaps worth reporting to you because Bezzola, who I have known for 4 years, raised the topic with me and it is a topic which I cannot recall our having discussed before.

The second occasion on which the Falkland Islands was mentioned was at dinner with a retired Admiral, Edgardo Segura, who was at one time Head of the Argentine Naval Mission to Europe. He is a shrewd and clever man and very much a political creature. We have often discussed the Falkland Islands and other matters informally and on this occasion his attitude was much more relaxed. In answer to my question about the importance of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine Government at this stage he said that it was now very much a second priority and that as long as talks went on it would not become a major issue.

I did mention these two conversations to John Chick at the Embassy but I thought you might also wish to be aware of them.

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