

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 400
CONFIDENTIAL
FM CARACAS 141900Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 103 OF 14 APRIL

OUR TEL NO 101 : THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. A MEMBER OF CHANCERY HAS MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION (CARE) , DR RAFAEL EMILIO MARQUEZ, SINCE THE ARGENTINIAN INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. ON 14 APRIL, FOLLOWING THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTY MEETING WHICH ENDORSED COMMUNIQUE REPORTED IN TUR. DR MARQUEZ MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(I) IN CASE OF ARMED CONFLICT

THE VENEZUELAN WOULD TAKE NO DEFINITE ACTION WHILST MEDIATION ATTEMPTS CONTINUED. BUT, IF ARMED CONFLICT TOOK PLACE, THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ADHERE TO THE RIO TREATY OF 1947. MILITARY ASSISTANCE (UNSPECIFIED) WOULD BE SENT TO ARGENTINA, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UK WOULD BE BROKEN AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WOULD BE REVISED.

(II) ATTITUDE TO BRITAIN

THIS WAS HARDENING AND THREE ANTI-BRITISH POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS WERE BEING PLANNED. THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT WERE THOSE BEING ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH WING OF THE GOVERNING PARTY COPEI AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCV)

(III) GUATEMALA

THE VENEZUELAN HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE NEW GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT , WHICH WAS WELL VIEWED BY VENEZUELA, WERE CONSIDERING MOVING AGAINST BELIZE. IF THIS OCCURRED IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES VENEZUELA WOULD BE COMPELLED TO SUPPORT THEM.

(IV) THE GUYANA DISPUTE

DR MARQUEZ CONSIDERED THAT CURRENT POPULAR AND MEDIA CALLS TO OCCUPY THE ESSEQUIBO IMMEDIATELY DID NOT REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW. THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO AWAITING THE EXPIRY OF THE PORT OF SPAIN PROTOCOL, AT WHICH TIME IT WAS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD CALL UPON THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO SET UP NEW NEGOTIATING MACHINERY. NEVERTHELESS PUBLIC OPINION WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORKED UP AND HE COULD NOT GIVE FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT WAVER IN ITS RESOLVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

/ (V) CUBA.

CONFIDENTIAL

(V) CUBA.

A DELEGATION FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD CALLED ON CARE ON 13 APRIL. THEY SAW THE INVOCATION OF THE RIO TREATY AS A MEANS OF BRINGING CUBA BACK INTO THE LATIN AMERICAN FOLD. CUBA NEEDED AN ACCOMMODATION WITH LATIN AMERICA. THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR, AND SEVENTEEN OFFICIALS, HAD RETURNED POSTE HASTE TO BUENOS AIRES. THE RUSSIANS WERE NONETHELESS CONCERNED THAT THE RIO TREATY, IF IT WAS REVIVED BY THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE, COULD BE USED AGAINST THEM AT A LATER DATE.

(VI) HAWK

THE HAWK CONTRACT HAD BEEN JEOPARDISED. THOUGH THE ARMED FORCES STILL WANTED IT, POLITICIANS WERE THINKING NOW IN TERMS OF GOING TO THE US. LACK OF MONEY, THE ESSEQUIBO AND THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WERE WORKING AGAINST THE HAWK.

2. I AM INCLINED TO TAKE MARQUEZ' VIEWS SERIOUSLY. HE IS A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE, AND HE HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE CRISIS. WE HAVE FOUND HIM LEVEL-HEADED IN THE PAST.

SECONDE

FCO
S AM D
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES TO

PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLE)
MR HAWTHIN) TREASURY
MR PEREZ)
MR ILETT)

MR FULLER SAFU CABINET OFFICE

MISS DICKSON (EIF DIVN) D/ENERGY

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL