

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE

\* for reports  
10-10x

PS/CHANCELLOR  
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MR LITTLER  
MR HAWTIN  
MR PERETZ  
MR ILETT  
MR MCINTYRE

H.M.Tsy

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FM WASHINGTON 092325Z APR 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1220 OF 9 APRIL

MY TELNO 1176 : FALKLAND ISLANDS : POSSIBLE VISIT BY U S OFFICIAL TO PORT STANLEY

1. A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE DEPARTMENT ARE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS AND FROM FAMILIES TO SEND A CONSULAR OFFICIAL TO PORT STANLEY TO INVESTIGATE THE WELL BEING OF U S CITIZENS THERE, WHO APPARENTLY NUMBER 40 OR MORE. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT SOME HAVE NOT BEEN FREE TO LEAVE THE FALKLANDS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE ARGENTINE DOCUMENTATION.
2. IN ORDER TO GET TO PORT STANLEY IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE AMERICANS WOULD HAVE TO SEND SOMEONE FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND HE WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL BY ARGENTINE MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE SAME STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT THE U S EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO GO. THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RESPONDED.
3. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE HINTED THAT, IF THE ARGENTINIANS GIVE PERMISSION FOR AN OFFICIAL TO BE SENT, THEY WILL PROBABLY GO AHEAD. WE SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT A PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO SEEK THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE ICRC BUT STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED UNLESS AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO SEND A

3. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE HINTED THAT, IF THE ARGENTINIANS GIVE PERMISSION FOR AN OFFICIAL TO BE SENT, THEY WILL PROBABLY GO AHEAD. WE SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT A PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO SEE THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE ICRC BUT STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED UNLESS AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO SEND A CONSULAR OFFICER. WE DREW STATE DEPARTMENTS ATTENTION TO OUR ADVICE AGAINST ANY TRAVEL TO THE FALKLANDS AT PRESENT AND TO THE RISK THAT THEIR PROPOSED ACTION COULD BE EXPLOITED BY ARGENTINA AND EXPRESSED THE STRONG HOPE THAT THEY WOULD REFLECT FURTHER ABOUT THIS.

HENDERSON

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