

*Mufaxed 11/14*

*(28) 36*

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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*[TALISTS]*

FM MONTEVIDEO 010/1725Z APR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 93 OF 010 APRIL 1982

MY TELNO 91 OF 9 APRIL : FALKLANDS LETTER

1. ALTHOUGH THE SIGNATORIES OF THE LETTER ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, EXPATRIATE CIVIL SERVANTS, AND ARE NOT AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLANDERS, AS GOVERNOR HUNT EMPHASISED TO THE BBC ON 9 APRIL, THE LETTER MAY NOT BE AS UNHELPFUL AS IT AT FIRST SEEMS.
2. THE KEY WORDS IN THE LETTER SEEM TO BE QUOTE TEMPORARY EVACUATION UNQUOTE, THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT THE SIGNATORIES WISH TO HAVE THE CIVILIAN POPULATION REMOVED WHILE THERE ARE HOSTILITIES GOING ON, AND RETURNED TO THE ISLANDS ONCE THE LATTER ARE BACK IN BRITISH HANDS. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE SIGNATORIES REQUEST THAT THE EVACUATION BE CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE

LATTER ARE BACK IN BRITISH HANDS. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE SIGNATORIES REQUEST THAT THE EVACUATION BE CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE ELSE THAN THE ARGENTINES.

3. THERE IS A DANGER THAT ARGENTINE COMPLIANCE WITH THE EVACUATION REQUEST COULD ENDALE ARGENTINA TO CLAIM THAT THE MOTIVE FOR OUR EJECTING THE ARGENTINE FORCES (IE THE ISLANDERS AND THEIR WISHES) IS REMOVED WITH THE ISLANDERS. A REFUSAL BY THE ARGENTINES TO ALLOW ANY IMMEDIATE EVACUATION COULD BE PORTRAYED, HOWEVER, AS THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES, WHICH WOULD EARN ARGENTINA RATHER LESS SYMPATHY THAN SHE IS AT PRESENT RECEIVING INTERNATIONALLY.

HUTCHINSON

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