

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (40)

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR A SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S Am D
HD/DEFENCE D
HD/NEWS D
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/WED

EMERGENCY UNIT
RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

PS/No 10 DOWNING ST (2)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR }
MR ILETT } TREASURY
MR LITTLER }

MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
SIR M PALLISER } CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE GERRY ADS. Goodall }
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO }
DIO }

Room 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FIELD

[Passed to E.R.]
[Typists a.a.]

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRUSSELS 241400Z JUNE 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
ELNO 233 OF 24 JUNE
INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: BELGIAN PERFORMANCE ON THE FALKLANDS

1. I HOPE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CAN BE RECOMMENDED TO MAKE A SPECIAL POINT DURING HER VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF THANKING THE KING AND MR MARTENS FOR THE LARGELY UNQUALIFIED AND USUALLY RAPID SUPPORT WHICH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE GIVEN HMG THROUGHOUT THE FALKLANDS CRISIS.

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INITIAL HESITATION OVER THE CORRECT FORM FOR SANCTIONS AND OVER WITHDRAWING EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES, BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR HMG'S WHOLE APPROACH TO THE FALKLANDS AND BELGIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY COMPLETE. IT HAS ALSO BEEN TRANSLATED RAPIDLY INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION IN BELGIUM'S NATIONAL AND PRESIDENCY ROLES.

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3. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INDEBTED TO THE BELGIANS FOR:

I) BELGIUM'S INITIATIVE IN SUMMONING AN EARLY POCO MEETING ON 9 APRIL TO SET UP INITIAL COMMUNITY SANCTIONS:

II) TINDEMANS' CRUCIAL TELEPHONE CALL TO GENSCHER ON 15 MAY IN ORDER TO ENSURE GENSCHER'S PRESENCE AT THE MEETING ON 16 MAY TO DISCUSS THE RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS:

III) THE IMMEDIATE BELGIAN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR A BELGIAN SPEECH IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 24 MAY:

IV) READY WILLINGNESS TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF EFFORTS BY ONE OR TWO LOCAL DEALERS TO CIRCUMVENT THE ARMS EMBARGO.

4. YOU THANKED TINDEMANS FOR (III) ABOVE IN THE COURSE OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HIM THE SAME EVENING. I ALSO EXPRESSED THANKS TO HIS CABINET. I HAVE ALSO TAKEN EVERY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY OF THANKING BELGIAN MINISTERS, OFFICIALS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR BELGIAN GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT, WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED INCIDENTALLY IN A LARGE NUMBER OF ENCOURAGING LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC AT MANY LEVELS. SOME FURTHER GESTURE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD, HOWEVER, NOW BE APPROPRIATE, ESPECIALLY SINCE (I) BELGIUM WAS NOT MENTIONED IN MRS THATCHER'S INTERVIEW WITH NEWS AT TEN ON 2 JUNE, ALTHOUGH HOLLAND WAS, (HARTLAND SWANN'S LETTER OF 7 JUNE TO FEARN) (II) AN ECONOMIST ARTICLE OF 19 JUNE SIMILARLY DID NOT MENTION BELGIUM AMONG THE ALLIES WHO HAD WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED US BUT DID MENTION GREECE, NORWAY AND CANADA. (III) A FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT ON 22 JUNE SIMILARLY OMITTED BELGIUM FROM A LIST OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAD DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE ARMS EMBARGO.

5. I HAD ALREADY TAKEN UP THE ECONOMIST'S OMISSION WITH THE ECONOMIST OFFICE HERE WHEN CASSIERS, WHO IS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO TINDEMANS ON DEFENCE MATTERS, TACKLED MY COUNSELLOR ABOUT IT. HARTLAND SWANN WAS THUS ABLE TO REPLY THAT I ALSO HAD REGRETTED THE OMISSION AND HAD ALREADY TAKEN IT UP WITH THE ECONOMIST AND WAS ABOUT TO DO SO WITH THE DEPARTMENT. THE OMISSION IS INDEED LIKELY TO HAVE BECOME FAIRLY WIDELY KNOWN AMONG BELGIAN MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS, AND CASSIERS' COMPLAINT IS AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SAY SOMETHING APPRECIATIVE WHILE SHE IS HERE.

6. IN PREPARATION FOR THE LUNCH AT LAEKEN ON 28 JUNE THE PRIME

6. IN PREPARATION FOR THE LUNCH AT LAEKEN ON 28 JUNE THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT ALSO LIKE TO KNOW THAT WHEN MY WIFE AND I WERE AT A SMALL DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION THERE JUST AFTER THE ARGENTINE SURRENDER, KING BAUDOUIN EXPRESSED HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE FALKLANDS. WHEN I THANKED HIM AND MENTIONED THE RELATIVELY LIMITED NUMBER OF CASUALTIES WHICH MERCIFULLY THE FIGHTING HAD INVOLVED, HE EXPRESSED SADNESS NEVERTHELESS AT THE NUMBER OF YOUNG LIVES LOST. WHEN I SPOKE OF THE LONGER-TERM PROBLEMS, THE KING IMMEDIATELY REMINDED ME HOWEVER OF THE CONFIDENCE IN BRITISH DIPLOMATIC SKILLS WHICH HE HAD EXPRESSED WHEN I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS (MY DESPATCH OF 10 MAY).

JACKSON

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SENT/RCVD 241515Z AGP/RV