

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
~~MR EVANS~~
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
~~HD/WES~~
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/FID (2)
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
RESIDENT CLERK

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)

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)

MRS M. PATTISON ; FID
MR C. ROTH ; ~~WES~~ ; ODA

MR A TITCHENER ; DOT
MR C W ROBERTS , IAT ;

M

Lead in file.

GRS 600
CONFIDENTIAL
FM PARIS 061800Z DEC 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER V1168 OF 6 DECEMBER 1982
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

MY TELNO 1166: FRENCH ARMS DELIVERIES TO ARGENTINA

1. HEAD OF CHANCERY CALLED ON FOUQUET (HEAD OF SOUTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT) AT THE QUAI ON 6 DECEMBER TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE REPORTS IN LE MONDE AND LE MATIN.
2. FOUQUET SAID THAT AT THE TIME THE FRENCH ARMS EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED ON ARGENTINA, 9 SUPER ETENDARDS PREVIOUSLY ORDERED HAD NOT YET BEEN DELIVERED. SINCE FRANCE HAD LIFTED THE EMBARGO, ALL NINE HAD BEEN DELIVERED, 5 ON 18 NOVEMBER, AND 4 LAST WEEK (HE HAD TO CHECK WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE BEFORE HE COULD CONFIRM LAST WEEK'S DELIVERY).
3. FOUQUET SAID THAT 5 EXOCET AM39S HAD BEEN SENT BEFORE THE CONFLICT AND A FURTHER 5 HAD BEEN SENT BY AREOPLANE ON THE NIGHT OF 20/21 NOVEMBER.
4. FOUQUET ADMITTED THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DID NOT KEEP THE QUAI COMPLETELY IN THE PICTURE. HE WAS QUITE CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT DELIVERIES OF SUPER

~~HOWEVER, THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT DELIVERIES OF SUPER-~~
ETENDARDS OR EXOCETS ADDITIONAL TO THOSE HE HAD MENTIONED WERE
FALSE. HE WAS ALSO QUITE CERTAIN THAT NO OTHER TYPES OF
EXOCETS HAD BEEN DELIVERED WHICH MIGHT ACCOUNT FOR THE
LE MONDE CLAIM (PARA 1 OF TUR) THAT 10 EXOCETS HAD BEE
LOADED ON 1 DECEMBER. ALL THAT HAD BEEN DELIVERED WAS WHAT HAD
BEEN IN THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT I.E. A GRAND TOTAL OF 14 SUPER
ETENDARDS AND 10 EXOCET AM39S.

5. FOUQUET WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ARGENTINES WERE ASKING FOR
A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF NEW WEAPONS, INCLUDING 10 MORE SUPER
ETENDARDS: EXOCET AM39S, MM38S AND MM40S: ROLAND SURFACE TO
AIR MISSILES: AND SUPER PUMA AND GAZELLE HELICOPTERS, THE
LATTER EQUIPPED WITH HOT.

6. ARBUTHNOTT REMINDED FOUQUET OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE
FOR HMG AND THAT WE HOPED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT DECIDE TO
SUPPLY ANY NEW ARMS. FOUQUET SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD NEVER
UNDERTAKEN TO ACCEPT A BRITISH VETO OVER THEIR SALES.

NEVERTHELESS HE COULD SAY, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT CHEYSSON
HAD PROPOSED TO THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERING
ARMS SUPPLIES THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE MOST
SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO GO TO ARGENTINA. HERNU WAS, HOWEVER,
UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM DASSAULT AND SNIAS AND STRONGLY
OPPOSED ANY LIMITATION ON SALES. THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE WAS
UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE TRADES UNIONS TO MAXIMISE SALES
BECAUSE OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION. FOUQUET SAID THAT NO
DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN ON THE ARGENTINE REQUEST NOR
COULD HE SAY WHEN IT WOULD BE. IT WOULD DEPEND IN PART ON THE
EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA ITSELF.

7. CONTINUING TO SPEAK PERSONALLY, FOUQUET SAID THAT IF THE
UK WISHED TO HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF PREVENTING THE SALE OF
ARMS, IT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON TRYING TO PREVENT THE SALE OF
THE MOST SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, E.G. THE AM39S. BUT EVEN
HERE, TO MAXIMISE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS, IT MIGHT BE
NECESSARY FOR MRS THATCHER TO SPEAK TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AT
SOME STAGE. ARBUTHNOTT REMINDED FOUQUET THAT I HAD ALREADY
GIVEN MARTIN IN THE QUAI A LIST OF THE WEAPONS WE BELIEVED TO
BE THE MOST SENSITIVE (MY TELNO 806 OF 11 AUGUST). FOUQUET
SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK IT OUT.

COMMENT

8. IF YOU WISH TO PURSUE THE IDEA OF TRYING TO PREVENT THE
SALE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, I SUGGEST THAT WE RE-
EXAMINE THE LIST IN YOUR TELNO 205 TO ATHENS. THERE IS NO
CHANCE OF STOPPING THE FRENCH DELIVERING ALL THE ITEMS LISTED.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE WERE TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON ONE
OR TWO WEAPONS ONLY E.G. IN PARTICULAR THE AM39S WE WOULD HAVE
A BETTER CHANCE.