

GRS 300

PS/ NO. 10. DOWNING STREET.

UNCLASSIFIED

(FM BERNE 301400Z)

FM BIS BUENOS AIRES

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 545 OF 29 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA WASHINGTON
UKMIS NEW YORK CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY

PRESS SUMMARY

1. THE PAPERS REFLECT A QUIET FESTIVE PERIOD WHOSE MAIN ITEM OF INTEREST WAS PRESIDENT BIGNONE'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON THURSDAY EVENING (TRANSLATION TO FCO BY BAG) THAT THE TIME-TABLE FOR NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WILL BE PROVIDED IN FEBRUARY. NO DATE FOR ELECTIONS WAS SPECIFIED BUT THEY WILL TAKE PLACE NO LATER THAN 6 NOVEMBER 1983 AND POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE UNTIL THE END OF MARCH TO COMPLETE QUALIFYING MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT RECEIVED A FROSTY RESPONSE FROM POLITICIANS WHO WANT A FIRM ELECTION DATE AND AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN PRESENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICIES.
2. NAVY COMMANDER FRANCO, IN HIS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENTS PLEDGING HIS INTENTION TO QUOTE FLY OUR FLAG IN THIS CORNER (OF THE COUNTRY I.E. FALKLANDS) WHICH BELONGS TO US AND WHICH WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP UNQUOTE. IN CONTRAST, HUGHES AND NICOLAIDES WERE MORE SUBDUED : THE LATTER STRESSING THE NEED TO PROVIDE A FIRM AND PERMANENT BASE FOR DEMOCRACY AND NOT MENTIONING ARGENTINA'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE ISLANDS.
3. FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT VICENTE SOLANO LIMA WILL ADDRESS A RALLY ON 3 JANUARY ORGANIZED BY THE POPULAR DEFENCE COMMISSION FOR ARGENTINA SOVEREIGNTY OF THE MALVINAS TO PROTEST AGAINST 150 YEARS OF BRITISH RULE WHICH CURRENTLY QUOTE CONSTITUTES A NEW THREAT TO PEACE IN THE REGION UNQUOTE. A MARCH IS SCHEDULED FOR 7 JANUARY.
4. THE TRANSPORT WORKERS HAVE CALLED OFF STRIKES SCHEDULED FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD. THIS WILL ALLOW WORKERS TO VISIT FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.
5. OVER 200 POLITICAL DETAINEES HAVE BEEN FREED. BISHOP LAGUNA OF THE EPISCOPATE SOCIAL WORK TEAM HAS STATED THAT ANY AMNESTIES SHOULD BE GRANTED BY THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AND NOT BY INTERESTED PARTIES I.E. THE MILITARY.

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6. AN EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM STARTING 1 JANUARY AND EXPECTED TO LAST SIX MONTHS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY. THIS SHOULD PROVIDE TWO MILLION PESOS PER MONTH FOR SINGLE PERSONS AND THREE MILLION PESOS FOR FAMILIES. BUT SOME CONFUSION STILL EXISTS OVER THE METHOD OF FUNDING THE PROJECTED SCHEME AND DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE.

7. LUFTHANSA RESUMED FLIGHTS TO ARGENTINA ON SUNDAY. "LA NACION" ANTICIPATES EARLY RESUMPTION OF AIR FRANCE AND OTHER EUROPEAN FLIGHTS. AEROFLOT ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO BEGIN FLIGHTS TO BUENOS AIRES SOON.

JOY

POWELL-JONES

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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