



Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 January 1983

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
Cabinet Office

My dear Robert,

FRANKS REPORT

1. Thank you for your letter of 10 January agreeing that Sir Oliver Wright should be authorised to give the US State Department 24 hours' advance warning of the Report's publication and of the references in it to US involvement.
2. I attach three draft telegrams to Washington. The first gives the Ambassador advance warning that instructions will be sent to him on 17 January. The second and third - to be sent to arrive first thing Washington time on the morning of 17 January - set out these instructions and summarise the relevant references in the Report. Robin Butler will no doubt want to consult the Prime Minister about the second and third telegrams, but the first might go at once.
3. The telegram of instructions sets out the line the Government intend to take in reply to questions in Parliament or elsewhere on the US position. This line has not, of course, yet been agreed, and the line in the draft telegram may need to be amended before despatch when the Prime Minister has considered this point in the light of David Goodall's group's recommendation.
4. The draft telegrams seem to us consistent with the telegram which we understand Tony Duff will be putting to you about briefing the US intelligence agencies, which we have seen in draft.
5. I am copying this to Clive Whitmore and Robin Butler.

Antony Acland
Antony Acland



OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	↓	CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU	PRIORITY
ZCZC	1	ZCZC	
GRS	2	GRS	
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL	
CAVEATS	4	DEYOU	
DESKBY	5		
FM FCO	6	FM FCO	
PRE/ADD	7	TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9	FROM PUS	
	10	FROM PUS FALKLAND ISLANDS: FRANKS REPORT	
	11	1. Strictly for your own information at this stage, the	
	12	Franks Report will be published in the early afternoon of	
	13	18 January, at the same time as a statement on it to	
	14	Parliament by the Prime Minister. Prior to publication	
	15	knowledge of this timing and of the Report's contents will	
	16	remain confined to a very small number of Ministers and officials.	
	17	2. The Report gives a detailed account of our exchanges with	
	18	the Americans before the invasion and also comments on the	
	19	Argentine assessment of the US attitude to the dispute.	
	20	3. It has been agreed that you should be authorised to give	
	21	the US Government 24 hours advance notice of those parts of	
///	22	the Report which refer to them. It would seem right to do	
//	23	this at a high level, which you may think should be Shultz	
/	24	himself. You will receive a telegram of instructions first	
	25	thing on 17 January. You or Derek Thomas will therefore need	
NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword to
File number		Dept PUS's Dept	Distribution Minimal PS/PUS Sir R Armstrong, Cabinet office
Drafted by (Block capitals) M H JAY			
Telephone number 233 5501			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU	Page 2
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1	<<<<
2	to be available then to act on them. Meanwhile you should
3	take no action to forewarn the Administration
4	4. Green will be receiving a separate telegram of instructions about
5	PYM references in his report to US intelligence.
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OUT TELEGRAM

	↓	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE 171300Z
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ZCZC GRS CLASS CAVEATS DESKBY FM FCO PRE/ADD TEL NO	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	ZCZC GRS CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU 171300Z<<< DESKBY 171300Z FM FCO TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON TELEGRAM NUMBER FROM PUS MY TELNO : FALKLAND ISLANDS: FRANKS REPORT 1. MIFT gives a summary of those parts of the Franks Report which refer to the US Government. The Report will be published at Z on 18 January, when the Prime Minister will make a statement in the House. A full debate on the Report is expected to take place before the end of January. 2. You should now inform the State Department at the highest appropriate level of the timing of the Report's publication and of the references in it detailed in MIFT. You should emphasise that this advance warning is being given in strict confidence and that the Government attach the greatest importance to the contents of the Report remaining confidential before publication. You may also say that the Report as a whole, in describing and commenting on the actions of both the British and US Governments, has set out to be as full
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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword and
File number	Dept PUS's	Distribution Minimal PS/PUS Sir R Armstrong, Cabinet Office
Drafted by (Block capitals) M H JAY		
Telephone number 233 5501		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU	Page 2.
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 2 and frank as possible, so that the facts should be clear.
 3 ~~While~~ We appreciate that this may perhaps cause some difficulties
 4 for the Americans, ^{but} we hope that they will understand why it
 5 has been done. You may tell them that, if asked about the
 6 details of US involvement, the Government intend to take the
 7 line that these are matters for the Americans to comment on
 8 but that we remain deeply grateful to the US Government both
 9 for Mr Haig's efforts ^{at mediation} and for the invaluable support and
 10 assistance given to Britain ^{after Mr Haig's efforts had failed,} ~~during the crisis.~~
 11 3. Please report State Department reactions by immediate
 12 telegram.
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 14 PYM
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OUT TELEGRAM

	↓	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE 171300Z
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	DEYOU
DESKBY	5	DESKBY 171300Z
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	FROM PUS
	10	MIPT: FALKLAND ISLANDS: FRANKS REPORT
	11	1. Following is outline of main references in the Franks
	12	report to US involvement (numbers refer to paragraph numbers
	13	in the report):
	14	120: Factual account of improving US/Argentine relations
	15	in 1981.
	16	129/ 129 Argentine press allegations in early 1982 that US
	17	139: Government would support Argentine military action
	18	and might perhaps be offered naval facilities in the
	19	Islands.
	20	142-4: Account of Mr Luce's briefing of Mr Enders on 1 March;
	21	attempts to brief him further before he visited Buenos
///	22	Aires; the visit itself; and Mr Enders' account of it
//	23	to Mr Luce.
/	24	157: Details of Lord Carrington's message of 8 March to
	25	Mr Haig and Mr Haig's reply.

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword 158
File number	Dept PUS's	Distribution Minimal PS/PUS Sir R Armstrong, Cabinet Office
Drafted by (Block capitals) M H JAY		
Telephone number 233 5501		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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	2 * ~~~~~ *	
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	4 197: Briefing of the US Charge in London about the Davidoff	
	5 landing.	
	6 211: Details of Lord Carrington's message of 28 March to	
	7 Mr Haig.	
	8 216: Sir N Henderson's discussion on 29 March with	
	9 Mr Stoessel.	
	10 222: Lord Carrington's summoning of the US Charge on	
	11 30 March.	
	12 227: Account by the US Ambassador in Buenos Aires of	
	13 Costa Mendez's rejection (on 30 March) of the US	
	14 Government's offer of good offices.	
	15 231: Report to the British Naval Attache in Buenos Aires	
	16 by the US Naval Attache (31 March) that the Argentine	
	17 fleet was at sea, unexpectedly.	
	18 235: Details of the Prime Minister's message of 31 March	
	19 to President Reagan.	
	20	
	21 * ~~~~~ *	
	22	
	23 243: Details of Mr Haig's message of 1 April to Lord	
	24 Carrington and of President Reagan's to the Prime	
	25 Minister.	
	26 248: Account of the US Ambassador in Buenos Aires' meetings	
	27 on 1 April with both Costa Mendez and Galtieri and of	
	28 the State Department's decision, in the light of the	
	29 Ambassador's conclusion that the Argentines would	
	30 carry out the invasion, to ask President Reagan to	
///	31 intervene.	
//	32 252: Account of Mr Haig's and President Reagan's attempts	
/	33 to speak to the Argentine leaders on 1/2 April.	
	34 254/5: President Reagan's telephone call to the Prime	
	NNNN ends	Catchword
	telegram	Minister
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* ~ * Passages deleted and retained under Section 3(4). (Wayland, 7 February 2013.

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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2 Minister on 2 April, informing her of his discussion
3 with Galtieri; and the Americans' subsequent account
4 of it.

5 276: Refers again to improved US/Argentine relations in
6 1981 and suggests that Argentines may have believed
7 the US Government were sympathetic to their claim
8 to the Falklands.

9 2. All these references, except the last, occur in the
10 narrative part of the Report. Most should cause no
11 difficulty for the US Government, as they relate facts which
12 are already widely known, although some give details of
13 previously confidential messages and conversations. There are,
14 however, some potentially awkward passages which are related
15 below:

16 144: Reporting on Mr Enders' visit to Buenos Aires in
17 March, the British Ambassador said that "his
18 information from the American Embassy was that
19 Mr Enders had not taken the opportunity specifically
20 to advise the Argentines to keep the temperature
21 down". The paragraph goes on to record that Mr Enders
22 did subsequently ask that Mr Luce be informed of his
23 discussion with Costa Mendez on the dispute.

24
25 *Passage deleted and retained under*
26 *Section 3(4).*

27
28 *Wayland*
29 *7 February 2013.*
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/// 31

// 32 216: This paragraph describes Mr Stoessel's relaying
/ 33 (29 March) of Mr Haig's concern that there should be
34 restraint on both sides and his insistence that the

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL DEYOU	Page 4
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 US would not take sides: Sir N Henderson's reply that the Americans could surely not remain neutral when British territory had been occupied illegally: and Mr Stoessel's assurance that while the US remained neutral on the underlying dispute, they would use their good offices to solve the immediate South Georgia problem.
 222: On 30 March Lord Carrington "summoned the US Charge to express his displeasure at the message from Mr Haig *... which had put the British position on the same footing as Argentina's."

*Passage deleted and retained under Section 3(x).
 @Wayland, 7 February 2013*

276: Following a section on improved US/Argentine relations in 1981, mentioning Galtieri's two visits to the US, the Report says "it seems likely that the Argentine Government came to believe that the US Government were sympathetic to their claim to the Falkland Islands and, while not supporting forcible action in furtherance of it, would not actively oppose it. When initially asked to intervene, the US did adopt an "even-handed" approach, while using their good offices to attempt to find a solution."

PYM
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