

GRS 540

UNCLASSIFIED

(FM BERNE 141705Z)

FM BIS BUENOS AIRES

TO PRIORITY FCO TELNO 17 OF 14 JAN 83

REPEATED PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA WASHINGTON UKMIS  
NEW YORK AND CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY.

MIPT

TEXT OF PRESIDENT BIGNONE'S COMMENTS ON THE FALKLANDS PRINTED  
IN "LA NACION" ON 13 JANUARY IS AS FOLLOWS :

L A S M A L V I N A S

QUESTION : MRS TATCHER'S VISIT TO THE MALVINAS ISLANDS IS UNIQUE  
IN THAT IT IS THE FIRST ONE THAT A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAS  
MADE TO THE ISLANDS.

WOULD THAT SUGGEST THAT THE POLITICAL DECISION TO INVADRE THE  
ISLANDS HAS, INSTEAD OF BRINGING US NEARER TO THEIR RE-INCORPORATION  
INTO OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY, DRAWN US A LITTLE FURTHER AWAY FROM  
THAT ARGENTINE OBJECTIVE ?

ANSWER : THE RESULTS WILL GIVE THE CONCRETE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION,  
THE TIME THAT IT WILL TAKE US TO ACHIEVE THOSE RESULTS. EVIDENTLY,  
TO CONTINUE AS WE ARE, GIVES US ONE CONCRETE RESULT : WE SPENT 17  
YEARS NEGOTIATING WITHOUT ANY REAL RESULT. HOW MUCH FARTHER HAVE  
WE PROGRESSED SINCE 2 APRIL ? AND ... IT WILL DEPEND ON WHAT  
MEASURES ARE TAKEN.

QUESTION : BUT DOES THIS NOT REVEAL A FIRMER DECISION ON THE PART  
OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION ON THE  
ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF A MILITARY BASE? AN OBJECTIVE  
WHICH DID NOT EXIST BEFORE.

REPLY : WE CANNOT ASSESS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS  
BECAUSE THEY ARE EXCLUSIVELY THEIR OWN. BUT I WOULD SAY THAT  
THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS A POLITICAL  
MATTER ....

QUESTION : THAT IS, YOU CONSIDER THAT THE POLITICAL DECISION OF  
THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL ?

REPLY : THAT POLITICAL FACTOR WHICH EMERGES FROM MRS TATCHER'S  
VISIT, INCLUDING SETTING UP A MILITARY BASE OR REMAINING FOR  
LONGER ON THE ISLANDS, MUST BE ASSESSED AS BEING IN THE REALM OF  
INTENTIONS. WE OURSELVES WILL DO ALL THAT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT  
THIS HAPPENING.

QUESTION : HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS ?

REPLY : BY EVERY MEANS THAT IS NECESSARY. THAT IS AND HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN ARGENTINA'S DECISION.

/ THE

THE DIPLOMATIC TOOLS :

QUESTION : WHEN YOU MENTION USING ALL MEANS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY,  
WHICH FOR EXAMPLE ARE YOU REFERRING TO ?

REPLY : WELL, I MEAN THE MOST SUITABLE TOOLS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT  
POSSESS TO ACHIEVE AN OBJECTIVE WHICH IS A NATIONAL OBJECTIVE, SUCH  
AS IN THE CASE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS.

AT THIS MOMENT THE TOOL WHICH IS WITHIN REACH OF THE GOVERNMENT'S  
HANDS AND WHICH THEY ARE USING INTENSIVELY IS THE DIPLOMATIC ONE.

THEY ARE MAKING VERY GOOD USE OF IT AND I BELIEVE WITH VERY  
POSITIVE RESULTS.

ENDIT

JOY

POWELL-JONES

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

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