

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL 40

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

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (3)
~~PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE~~
~~MR J STEWART AUSS STAFF MOD~~
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ~~MARK DENNISON~~) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)

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

IMMEDIATE

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

MR M. PATTISON ; FID
~~MR G. P...~~ ; ~~L...~~ , ODA
MR D. LAWLESS
MR A TITCHENER ;
MR C W ROBERTS , IAT ; DOT

mf

GRS 360
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 210900Z
FM WELLINGTON 210252Z JAN 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 014 OF 21 JAN
AND TO IMMEDIATE CANBERRA BRUSSELS PARIS TOKYO SANTIAGO OSLO
PRETORIA MOSCOW WASHINGTON BONN WARSAW
INFO PRIORITY CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY UKMIS NEW YORK
UKDEL NATO BERNE

YOUR TELNOS 8 AND 9: POSSIBLE HOSTILE ACTION IN THE ANTARCTIC.

1. WATTS INTERVENED DURING THIS MORNING'S DEBATE AND DELIVERED THE STATEMENT AT 202325Z

2. ARGENTINE DELEGATION LEADER (CARLOS BLANCO, DIRECTOR

2. ARGENTINE DELEGATION LEADER (CARLOS BLANCO, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ANTARCTIC AND 'MALVINAS' DEPT, MFA) WAS INFORMALLY GIVEN NOTICE OF OUR INTENTIONS, ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEFORE DELIVERY OF STATEMENT. HE COMMENTED IMMEDIATELY IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS, AS NOTED BY UK DELEGATION, BUT VIRTUALLY VERBATIM. QUOTE REGARDING THE STATEMENT JUST MADE, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY FIRSTLY THAT ARGENTINA TRADITIONALLY ABIDES BY ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND HAS ALWAYS DONE SO. SECONDLY, ARGENTINA HAS BEEN AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SINCE 1959 AND THEREFORE IS TOTALLY AWARE OF THE OBLIGATIONS THE ANTARCTIC TREATY IMPOSES, AMONGST THEM THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-MILITARISATION ARGENTINA COMPLIES, HAS COMPLIED AND WILL COMPLY, WITH THOSE OBLIGATIONS, NO MORE NO LESS. THE REPORTS ARE INNACCURATE (HE CHOSE THE WORD CAREFULLY) IN WHATEVER VERSION. THE ARMED FORCES OF ARGENTINA ARE ACTING AS LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. I AM SORRY THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN BROUGHT INTO THIS FORUM - IT IS NOT PROPITIOUS - AND I HOPE IT DOES NOT AFFECT THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE. ENDS. UNQUOTE.

3. NO OTHER STATEMENTS WERE MADE, AND THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE CONTINUED.

4. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE FACT THAT WE MADE A STATEMENT (AND POSSIBLY ITS TERMS) WILL BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN. FOR THE PRESENT, WE AND DELEGATION PROPOSE, IF ASKED, TO DECLINE COMMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE PROCEEDINGS WITHIN THE CONFERENCE, AND ARGENTINES WILL ACT LIKEWISE. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN (BEEBY, NZ) HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THIS LINE ON OTHER CONFERENCE ISSUES AND INTENDS TO DO SO HIMSELF ON THIS MATTER.

5. ARGENTINA HAS NO MISSION IN WELLINGTON AND WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES OVER SECURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH BUENOS AIRES. THIS MAY AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO SAY MORE ON THIS TOPIC DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE.

6. FCO PSE PASS EAST BERLIN, IF APPROPRIATE.

FAWCETT

NNNN

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PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
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DIO)

MRS M. PATTISON) FID
MR C. ROTH) ODA

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

RR PORT STANLEY

GRS 220
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FM PARIS 211245Z JAN 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 53 OF 21 JANUARY 1983
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, PORT STANLEY
INFO SAVING TO ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, UKREP BRUSSELS, COPEN -
HAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, ROME, UKMIS NEW YORK.

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IMMEDIATE

MY TELNO 42: FALKLANDS: POSSIBLE FURTHER ARGENTINE AGGRESSION

1. WE ASKED THE HEAD OF SOUTH AMERICA DEPARTMENT AT THE QUAI
THE RESULTS OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S PROBE. FOUQUET SAID THAT
THE AMBASSADOR'S ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THE ARGENTINES WANTED
PRIMARYLY TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON BRITAIN IN ORDER TO KEEP
BRITISH FORCES IN A COSTLY STATE OF ALERT. THEY DID NOT SEEM
TO HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE INTENTION OF CONDUCTING OPERATIONS, THOUGH
THEIR MILITARY PREPARATIONS WOULD ALLOW THEM TO ACT SHOULD
THEY SPOT ANY BREACH IN BRITAIN'S DEFENCES. FOUQUET SAID THAT
THE AMBASSADOR HAD FORMED THIS VIEW FOLLOWING CONTACTS (HE
WAS RELUCTANT TO SPECIFY AT WHAT LEVEL) WITH THE ARGENTINE
AUTHORITIES. ASKED WHETHER THE FRENCH INTENDED TO FOLLOW
UP WITH A FORMAL DEMARCHE FOUQUET SAID THAT THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN
DECIDED.

2. WHEN WE MENTIONED PRESS REPORTS (EG DAILY TELEGRAPH OF 20 JAN) OF FRENCH ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ARGENTINA EARLIER THIS WEEK FOUQUET SAID IT WAS CORRECT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SHIPMENT OF PANHARD PERSONNEL CARRIERS. THIS WAS AN OLD CONTRACT GOING BACK TO 1980. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN LONDON HAD BEEN AUTHORISED TO INFORM THE FCO.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

FRETWELL.

NNNN

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FM FCO 201335Z JAN 83

TO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 009 OF 21 JANUARY

AND TO PRIORITY CANBERRA, BRUSSELS, PARIS, TOKYO, SANTIAGO,
OSLO, PRETORIA, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, BONN, WARSAW, EAST BERLIN
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY,
UKMIS NEW YORK, BERNE

FOR WATTS

MIPT : POSSIBLE HOSTILE ARGENTINE ACTION IN THE ANTARCTIC

1. YOU SHOULD SPEAK AS FOLLOWS. BEGINS.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE IN THE
ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA OF ARGENTINE NAVAL POLAR VESSELS. THOUGH
THERE IS NOTHING ILLEGAL IN THIS IN ITSELF, THE NAVAL VESSELS'
APPARENTLY COORDINATED MOVEMENT TO THE AREA HAS COINCIDED WITH
CONSISTENTLY BELLICOSE STATEMENTS BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT,
INCLUDING REFERENCES TO THE RECOVERY OF UNSPECIFIED 'SOUTHERN
ARCHIPELAGOS'. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EVENTS OF LAST YEAR, THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY INDICATION THAT THE
ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING SOME KIND OF ACTION
THAT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, IN PARTICULAR
THE CARDINAL REQUIREMENT IN ITS ARTICLE 1(1) THAT ANTARCTICA
SHALL BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD
HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES IN DAMAGING THE SPIRIT OF PEACEFUL
COOPERATION THAT HAS BEEN SUCH A SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
TREATY.

MY GOVERNMENT THEREFORE CALL ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT
CLEARLY AND CATEGORICALLY TO REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO THE
SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. I CAN MAKE SUCH A
COMMITMENT NOW ON BEHALF OF MY OWN GOVERNMENT AND HOPE THAT
THE ARGENTINE DELEGATE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO ON BEHALF OF HIS
IN THE COURSE OF THIS CONFERENCE.

ENDS

PYM

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FM FCO 201330Z JANUARY 83
TO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 8 OF 20 JANUARY
AND TO PRIORITY CANBERRA, BRUSSELS, PARIS, TOKYO, SANTIAGO, OSLO,
PRETORIA, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, BONN, WARSAW, EAST BERLIN
INFO PRIORITY CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY, UKMIS NEW YORK,
UKDEL NATO, BERNE
FOR WATTS

POSSIBLE HOSTILE ARGENTINE ACTION IN THE ANTARCTIC

1. YOU AND HEAP (BUT NOT ALL OTHERS) WILL HAVE SEEN JIC ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITIES OF HOSTILE ARGENTINE ACTION IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONFERENCE ON ANTARCTIC MINERALS OFFERS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK IN FRONT OF CONSULTATIVE TREATY PARTIES A PUBLIC ASSURANCE FROM THE ARGENTINE DELEGATE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY ACTION CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OR LETTER OF THE TREATY.
2. PLEASE THEREFORE TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER IN THE CONFERENCE THE TEXT IN MIFT. YOU SHOULD PRESENT OUR AIM AS BEING TO ELICIT SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES, WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.
3. ONCE YOU HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ACTION IN THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN TAKEN, OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF IT AND GIVE THEM COPIES OF YOUR TEXT. YOU MAY, IF YOU JUDGE IT APPROPRIATE, TAKE INFORMAL SUPPORTING ACTION WITH FRIENDLY DELEGATES ON LINES SET OUT BELOW.
4. YOU SHOULD DECLINE TO GIVE DETAILS OF ANY 'INDICATION'. YOU AND OTHER POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON THE CATALOGUE OF RECENT BELLICOSE ARGENTINE STATEMENTS (FCO TELNO 66 TO WASHINGTON NOW BEING REPEATED TO NEW ADDRESSEES). YOU CAN ALSO SAY THAT ARGENTINE ACTIVITY IN THE TREATY AREA APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED MARKEDLY THIS YEAR (AND TO BE MORE MILITARY IN CHARACTER THAN USUAL) WITHOUT THERE BEING ANY OBVIOUS REASON, LET ALONE EXPLANATION

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FROM THEM. WE ARE BOUND TO REGARD THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SHIP BAHIA PARAISO - KNOWN TO BE IN THE AREA - WITH SUSPICION GIVEN THE PART SHE PLAYED IN THE LANDING OF ARMED MARINES ON SOUTH GEORGIA IN MARCH 1982 ON HER RETURN FROM THE ANTARCTIC. WE HAVE OTHER INDICATIONS WE CANNOT DISCLOSE. YOU MAY SUGGEST THAT WE HOPE WE ARE WRONG, BUT ADD THAT, IF WE ARE NOT, THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE SO SERIOUS THAT WE FEEL WE MUST ALERT TREATY PARTNERS AND SEEK ASSURANCES FROM THE ARGENTINES.

5. POSTS IN WARSAW PACT CAPITALS HAVE DISCRETION TO TAKE THIS ACTION IF THEY JUDGE IT LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL. WE SHOULD PREFER NOT TO SPLIT THE PARTIES, AND BELIEVE THAT OUR CONCERN THAT THE TREATY SHOULD NOT BE INFRINGED SHOULD BE SHARED BY ALL OF THEM, WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL HUE.

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