

Argentina

GRS 270 .

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NO. 101 DOWNING STREET.

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FM MONTEVIDEO 101335Z FEB 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 62 OF 10 FEBRUARY

MY TELEGRAM NO 21 AND MY LETTER OF 9 FEBRUARY TO HEAD OF FID:
STAGING FACILITIES THROUGH MONTEVIDEO FOR FLIGHTS TO THE
FALKLANDS.

SUMMARY

URUGUAY STILL NOT READY TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF STAGING
FACILITIES.

1. ON 8 FEBRUARY ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR TWO DAY
OFFICIAL VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES, URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER
HELD PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN HE REPLIED TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS
TABLED IN ADVANCE. ON THE QUESTION OF STAGING FACILITIES HE
SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL REQUEST BUT IF AND WHEN THIS
WAS MADE IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED QUOTE IN THE LIGHT OF VARIOUS
RELEVANT ELEMENTS. URUGUAY CONDUCTED A COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY
UNQUOTE. HE DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF PRESSURE FROM THE UK,
ADDING THAT AS A SOVEREIGN STATE URUGUAY WOULD NEVER ACCEPT
ANY KIND OF PRESSURES OF ANY KIND. DR MAESO MADE SIMILAR
REMARKS IN BUENOS AIRES YESTERDAY.

2. WHEN I SAW AMBASSADOR DE POSADAS MONTERO, DIRECTOR OF
EXTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, ON OTHER MATTERS YESTERDAY EVENING
I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THESE
SOMEWHAT SIBYLLINE COMMENTS. DE POSADAS MONTERO SAID THAT THEY
HAD BEEN VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND WERE INTENDED TO
MAINTAIN A BALANCE. HOWEVER AS DOUBTLESS WE WOULD UNDERSTAND,
FOR THE PRESENT URUGUAY COULD GO NO FURTHER THAN THE NEXT
OF KIN VISIT TO WHICH DR MAESO ALSO REFERRED IN HIS PRESS
CONFERENCE AND IN BUENOS AIRES AS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH
URUGUAY'S POLICY OF ASSISTANCE ON HUMANITARIAN MATTERS.

3. BOTH HERE AND IN BUENOS AIRES DR MAESO REITERATED
URUGUAY'S SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA'S SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM AND HOPE
FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

HUTCHINSON

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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