

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39

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 AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)

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

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

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

HD/PUSD (2)
HD/SAMD
HD/FID
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF

RESIDENT CLERK

GRS 300

UNCLASSIFIED

ADVANCE COPY

(FM BERNE 021045 Z)

IMMEDIATE

FM BIS BUENOS AIRES
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 86 OF 01 MARCH
RD TO IMMEDIATE MOD
INFO PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTAIGO BRASILIA CARACAS
WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY

PRESS SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT BIGNONE'S RADIO AND TELEVISION SPEECH LAST NIGHT IS TODAY'S MAIN STORY (TEXT AND TRANSLATION BY BAG TO FCO). HE ANNOUNCED THAT NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY ON OCTOBER 30 AND THAT POWER WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE ELECTED CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES ON 30 JANUARY 1984. ELECTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND VICE-PRESIDENCY WILL BE INDIRECT, ACCORDING TO THE 1853 CONSTITUTION, WHICH WILL NOT BE MODIFIED. THE MILITARY WILL NOT FORM ITS OWN PARTY AND THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION. BIGNONE ADDED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT

~~PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION.~~ BIGNONE ADDED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT COMPOSITION OF HIS CABINET AND THAT THE DIALOGUE WITH THE POLITICIANS HAD BEEN PRODUCTIVE. OTHER STAGES OF THE ELECTORAL TIME-TABLE WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.

2. LEADING POLITICIANS WELCOMED BIGNONE'S CLARIFICATION ON DATES BUT GENERALLY CRITICIZED AS EXCESSIVE THE DELAY BETWEEN POLLING DATE AND HAND-OVER.

3. BIGNONE ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD URGE ARGENTINA'S SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS TO THE FALKLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS AT THE MARCH NAM MEETING IN NEW DEHLI. MOST PAPERS NOTE WITH CONCERN THAT DUE TO ALLEGED BRITISH PRESSURE THE FALKLANDS ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROVISIONAL NAM AGENDA, AND THAT ARGENTINA MAY NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HER CASE.

4. BIGNONE AND ECONOMY MINISTER JORGE WEHBE ARE EXPECTED TO MEET TODAY FOR DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY. THEY WILL BE SUMMONED TO MEET THE JUNTA TOMORROW.

5. THE INTRANSIGENTS, DEVELOPMENTALISTS AND RADICALS HAVE CALLED FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE MULTIPARTIDARIA TO ELABORATE A NEW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMME. THE EMPLOYERS FEDERATION, THE ARGENTINE INDUSTRIAL UNION (UIA), HAS EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT ON PRICES AND INCOMES, BUT HAS ALSO PROPOSED A MEETING WITH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, THE TWO BRANCHES OF THE CGT AND THE CHURCH TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO INCREASING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

JOY

POWELL-JONES