

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

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

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

ADVANCE COPY RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

DESKBY 181700Z



CONFIDENTIAL

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FM MONTEVIDEO 181503Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 146 OF 18 MARCH

ARGENTINE PRESSURE ON URUGUAY: THE BISCOE AND THE MONSUNEN.

1. DR MAESO TOLD ME LAST NIGHT AT A DINNER PARTY FOR THE AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO LONDON THAT THE VISITS TO MONTEVIDEO OF THE MONSUNEN AND THE BISCOE WERE CAUSING SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE ARGENTINE PRESS YESTERDAY CARRIED STORIES ABOUT THE BISCOE AND THE MONSUNEN VISITING MONTEVIDEO TO TAKE ON SUPPLIES FOR THE FALKLANDS AND THE URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES WAS BEING PRESSED FOR COMMENT ON WHAT THE ARGENTINES ARE REGARDING AS PROVIDING UNEXPECTED LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO A NEIGHBOURING SISTER COUNTRY.

2. Paragraph deleted and closed, 40 years, under FoI Exemption.

Wayland
12 February 2013

3. TODAY'S URUGUAYAN PRESS HAVE TAKEN UP THE STORY AND CARRY A STATEMENT BY THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES TO THE EFFECT THAT WHATEVER THE SHIPS DID IN MONTEVIDEO WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PRIVATE COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AND THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WAS IN NO POSITION TO INTERVENE.

4. WE ALSO ARE BEING ASKED TO COMMENT. WE ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT BRITISH MERCHANT VESSELS HAVE VISITED MONTEVIDEO FOR

4. ~~WE ALSO ARE BEING ASKED TO COMMENT. WE ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT BRITISH MERCHANT VESSELS HAVE VISITED MONTEVIDEO FOR DECADES. IT SEEMS NORMAL THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.~~
5. THE SOURCE OF THE STORIES IN THE ARGENTINE PRESS IS ALLEGEDLY A BRITISH PUBLICATION CALLED QUOTE SEA TRADE UNQUOTE.
6. PLEASE SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

HUTCHINSON

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 18/1545Z PG/DP

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

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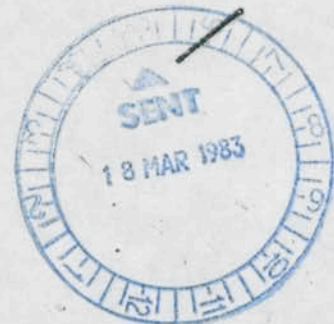
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FM MONTEVIDEO 181520Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 147 OF 18 MARCH

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 68 TO UKMIS GENEVA AND MY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING TELEGRAM: ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN.

1. GIVEN THE REAL WORRIES EXPRESSED BY DR MAESO I ASKED WHAT THE URUGUAYANS KNEW ABOUT DESTEFANIS. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL APPROACH TO THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT.
2. DR MAESO HOWEVER SAID THAT GIVEN THE CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH ARGENTINA, IF HMG WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL ALL ROUND IF MONTEVIDEO WERE TO BE USED AS A STAGEING POST. THIS, AS DURING THE CONFLICT WOULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF URUGUAY'S EVEN-HANDEDNESS AND WOULD BE HELPFUL TO URUGUAY. DR MAESO ASSUMED THAT HMG WISHED TO AVOID AN INCIDENT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. ON THE OTHER HAND IF WE ACCEPTED A HUMANITARIAN VISIT WE WOULD ALSO BE MAKING THE TACIT POINT OF OUR DE FACTO JURISDICTION.
3. I DID NOT REFER IN ANY WAY TO OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE ICRC BUT SAID THAT JUDGING FROM WHAT I HAD SEEN IN THE PRESS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHO DESTEFANIS REPRESENTED. DR MAESO SAID THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER THIS MATTERED ALL THAT MUCH. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HMG WOULD WANT TO BE SURE THAT THE DESTEFANIS BOAT WAS NOT FULL OF BOMBS AND ARMED MEN. HOWEVER URUGUAY NOW HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE OF CHECKING THAT HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS WERE WHAT THEY WERE ALLEGED TO BE.
4. WHILE I REALISE THAT DR MAESO'S SUGGESTION PROVIDES A

~~OPERATIONS WERE WHAT THEY WERE ALLEGED TO BE.~~

4. WHILE I REALISE THAT DR MAESO'S SUGGESTION PROVIDES A COMPLICATING FACTOR IT IS PERHAPS WORTH PURSUING. AT NO TIME IN THE CONVERSATION WAS THERE ANY SUGGESTION THAT OUR NEXT OF KIN VISIT WAS TO BE CANCELLED. WE MUST HOWEVER BEAR IN MIND HIS REFERENCE TO EVEN-HANDEDNESS.

4. MATTERS WERE LEFT THAT I WOULD REPORT.

HUTCHINSON

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 18/1550Z PG/DP