

PS 6
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
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PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

IMMEDIATE

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
MR A FORTNAM

HD/PUSD (2)
HD/SAMD
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HD/DEFENCE DEPT
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HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
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RESIDENT CLERK

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CONFIDENTIAL

(FM BERNE 250025Z)

FM BISBA

TO DESKBY FCO

TELNO 169 OF 25 MARCH 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON MOD
AND PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA CARACAS AND CIVIL
COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY.

ALLEGED BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO DE-STABILIZE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

1. THE MILITARY REGIME YESTERDAY ORDERED THE ARREST OF JORGE FONTEVECCHIA, THE EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE "LA SEMANA", OF WHICH THE LATEST ISSUE WAS CONFISCATED BY THE AUTHORITIES ON 23 MARCH (OUR TELNO 162 REFERS). A GOVERNMENT HOUSE SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT FONTEVECCHIA, WHO IS APPARENTLY STILL AT LARGE, WAS INVOLVED IN A QUOTE CAMPAIGN TO DE-STABILIZE THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS BEGUN BY THE ARMED FORCES UNQUOTE. AN INTERIOR MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE LATER TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD OBTAINED REPORTS FROM SOURCES QUOTE CLOSE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE (FCO) UNQUOTE THAT THIS CAMPAIGN WAS ORCHESTRATED BY THE BRITISH FROM LONDON (TEXT AND TRANSLATION BY BAG TO FCO). HE REFUSED TO ELABORATE, BUT PROMISE THAT A FULL EXPOSITION WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. THESE ALLEGATIONS TODAY RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN THE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD" "LA NACION" AND THE POPULAR DAILY

2. THESE ALLEGATIONS TODAY RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN THE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD", "LA NACION" AND THE POPULAR DAILY "CRONICA", AND WERE ALSO CARRIED BY ALL OTHER PAPERS. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY SPOKESMAN MADE THEM AFTER DECLINING TO ANSWER PRESSMEN'S OTHER QUESTIONS ON THE EXACT NATURE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST FONTEVECCHIA, AND ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO TAKE SIMILAR MEASURES AGAINST FURTHER PUBLICATIONS. THE CLAIMS OF BRITISH INTERFERENCE ARE RELAYED WITHOUT COMMENT, EXCEPT IN THE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD" WHERE THEY ARE DISMISSED IN AN EDITORIAL AS QUOTE INCREDIBLE UNQUOTE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE GRAVITY OF THE ACCUSATIONS WE WONDER WHETHER WE SHOULD, THROUGH THE SWISS, MAKE AN OFFICIAL PROTEST TO THE MFA HERE, OR WHETHER YOU WISH TO INITIATE ACTION FROM LONDON.

JACKSON-HOULSTON

POWELL-JONES

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MR A FORTNAM

IMMEDIATE RESIDENT CLERK

FROM BERNE
CONFIDENTIAL
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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TELNO 062 OF 25 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON MOD
AND PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA CARACAS AND CIVIL
COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY.

BISBA TELEGRAM NO 169 TO FCO.

(UNDERLINED) ALLEGED BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO DESTABILISH THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT.

INTRANSMITTING THE TUR TO US AT 2330 GMT ON 25 MARCH THE SWISS
FDFA SAID THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAD COMMENTED
THAT AMBASSADOR LUPIZ, UNDER SECRETARY IN THE ARGENTINE
MFA, HAD TOLD HIM HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A DECLARATION BY THE
ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND HAD NOT READ OF IT IN
THE PRESS. HE HAD EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF
SAUCH A REPORT, AND HAD ADDED QUOTE IT IS OUR JOURNALISTS WHO
ARE DESTABILISING ARGENTINA UNQUOTE

ARE DESTABILISING ARGENTINA UNQUOTE.

THE SWISS AMBASSADOR WAS PREPARED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE ARGENTINE MFA IF NECESSARY.

POWELL-JONES

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IMMEDIATE FCO
ISSUED DES OF 25 MARCH

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