

CONFIDENTIAL

cc/vv

(2)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

mf

28 March 1983

Prime Minute

The ICRC have agreed and this is being issued this evening.

Dear John,

A.S.C. 25/3

Falklands: Argentine Next of Kin Visit

Following this morning's meeting of OD(EM) I enclose the text of a public statement on the request which has been received from Sr Destefanis. The text is being put to the ICRC with a view to making a statement this evening.

I am copying this to Private Secretaries to other members of OD(EM).

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

John Holmes

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

# OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Precedence/Deskby
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO                      UKMIS GENEVA
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT
	10	1. Proposed text of a public statement.
	11	BEGINS: We have received through the International Committee
	12	of the Red Cross a letter from Sr Osvaldo Destefanis, the
	13	President of an Argentine group called The Centre for Volunteers
	14	for the Fatherland, requesting the support and protection of
	15	the ICRC for a visit by a group of relatives of Argentine
	16	servicemen who died during the Falklands hostilities.
	17	We so no objection in principle to a visit by relatives
	18	taking place provided it is organised and supervised by the
	19	ICRC, is purely humanitarian in nature, and certain conditions
	20	are observed. We have asked the ICRC so to inform Sr
	21	Destefanis and we are discussion with them about the details of
///	22	such a visit.
//	23	We stand by the offer which has been made to the Argentine
/	24	Government on several occasions to return to Argentina the
	25	bodies of their servicemen at present buried on the Falkland

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword  Islands.
File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO 281830Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

TELEGRAM NUMBER GUIDANCE 46 OF 28 MARCH 1983

MY TELEGRAM NUMBER GUIDANCE 30:

FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT AT 1900Z ON 28 MARCH:

'WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) A LETTER FROM SR OSVALDO DESTEFANIS, THE PRESIDENT OF AN ARGENTINE GROUP CALLED CENTRE FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FATHERLAND, REQUESTING THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF THE ICRC FOR A VISIT BY A GROUP OF RELATIVES OF ARGENTINE SERVICEMEN WHO DIED DURING THE FALKLANDS HOSTILITIES.

WE SEE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO A VISIT BY RELATIVES TAKING PLACE PROVIDED THAT IT IS ORGANISED AND SUPERVISED BY THE ICRC, THAT IT IS PURELY HUMANITARIAN IN NATURE, AND THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE OBSERVED. WE HAVE ASKED THE ICRC SO TO INFORM SR DESTEFANIS AND WE ARE IN DISCUSSION WITH THEM ABOUT THE DETAILS OF SUCH A VISIT.

WE STAND BY THE OFFER WHICH HAS BEEN MADE TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA THE BODIES OF THEIR SERVICEMEN AT PRESENT BURIED ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.'

LINE TO TAKE

2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE ABOVE IN RESPONSE TO ANY ENQUIRIES, AND POINT OUT THAT THE ICRC ARE PURSUING DETAILS WITH DESTEFANIS.

PYM

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[ALL ROUTINE]

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