

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES) 57

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)
 MISS M E CUND) 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)

RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

GRS 268
 CONFIDENTIAL
 DESKBY 290800Z MAR
 FM SANTIAGO 282200Z MAR 83
 TO IMMEDIATE F C O
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 325 OF 28 MARCH
 INFO IMMEDIATE DESKBY MODUK (FOR D14) SIC U2J

UK/CHILE COOPERATION DURING THE FALKLANDS WAR

1. ACCORDING TO AN AFP STORY DATED PARIS MARCH 28, THE CHILEAN NAVAL COMMANDER IN PUNTA ARENAS INFORMED THE ROYAL NAVY OF THE POSITION OF THE ARGENTINE CRUISER GENERAL BELGRANO DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL 1982. THIS INFORMATION IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN PASSED THROUGH THE BRITISH MILITARY (SIC) ATTACHE IN SANTIAGO.

2. THE AFP STORY HAS RESURRECTED FROM THE BOOK "EYEWITNESS FALKLANDS" PUBLISHED IN LATE 1982 BY THE BBC CORRESPONDENT ROBERT FOX. AFP QUOTES FROM FOX'S BOOK VERBATIM (SEE HIS LAST PARA) IN THIS CASE BUT THEIR STORY IS IN FACT ONLY THE LATEST IN A SEQUENCE OF MISCHIEVOUS PIECES.

3. BOTH WE AND THE CHILEAN NAVY HAVE RECEIVED MANY PRESS ENQUIRIES TODAY ABOUT THIS STORY. SO FAR WE HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT AND THE CHILEAN NAVY HAVE TAKEN THE SAME LINE WHILST IMPLYING THAT FOX IS NOT WORTHY OF ANY CREDENCE.

*Passage deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FoI Exemption.*

*Wayland
12 February 2013*

4. GRATEFUL FOR IMMEDIATE ADVICE OF ANY STATEMENT WHICH YOU OR MOD MAY BE PREPARED TO MAKE, EG THAT THIS IS NO MORE THAN A REVIVAL OF A STALE CANARD CURRENT AT THE TIME OF THE WAR.

HICKMAN

NNNN

SENT AT/RECD AT 282243ZP L N /BCC