

CONFIDENTIAL file

de  
Argentina



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 April 1983

Falkland Islands: Visit of Argentine Next of Kin

The Prime Minister has seen Port Stanley tel. no. 234 of 5 April. She has noted the comment in paragraph 3 about the need to keep a close watch on Destefanis over the next few days, and has asked what arrangements have been made for monitoring Destefanis' movements.

She has also noted the comment in paragraph 4 that visiting journalists in Stanley are making their own dispositions now so that they can travel to Darwin without military or FIG assistance to cover a possible Argentine visit. She has asked how it is possible for these journalists to make such arrangements, with whose co-operation they are making these arrangements, and by what means they are travelling to Darwin.

I should be grateful for your advice on the Prime Minister's comments as soon as possible.

W. F. S. RICKETT

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MT

FROM PORT STANLEY 051155Z APR 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO

hand in file

INFO PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO, BIS BUENOS AIRES  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 234 OF 5 APRIL

YOUR TELNO 25: ARGENTINE NOK VISIT

1. MANY THANKS FOR ADVISING US PROMPTLY OF TERMS PUT TO  
ICRC. WE HAVE SHOWN THEM TO THOSE COUNCILLORS ON WHOSE DISCRETION  
WE CAN RELY (WHO HAVE BEEN MUCH IRRITATED BY THE PREVIOUS  
LEAKS).

2. THEIR GENERAL REACTION HAS BEEN RELUCTANT ACCEPTANCE THAT THE  
"AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" WAS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF MONTEVIDEO  
TELNO 175, IF OUR OWN NOK VISIT WAS TO GO AHEAD UNIMPEDED. YOU  
SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR HOWEVER THAT, BUT FOR THE IMPLICATIONS  
FOR OUR OWN NOK VISIT, COUNCILLORS WOULD PROBABLY UNANIMOUSLY  
HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE THEIR AGREEMENT. ISLAND FEELING  
REMAINS STRONG AGAINST ARGENTINES SETTING FOOT ON THE ISLANDS  
AND COUNCILLORS WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING THEIR CONSTIT-  
UENTS OF THE NECESSITY FOR THE AGREEMENT. ONCE OUR OWN NOK  
VISIT IS SAFELY OVER THEY WILL BE LOOKING FOR THE STRICTEST  
INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS LAID DOWN TO ICRC AND WILL BE SCRUTIN-  
ISING OUR EVERY MOVE FOR EVIDENCE OF WEAKNESS. THE CONDITIONS MUST  
BE SEEN AS THE IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN ANY  
LOCAL CREDIBILITY. IN ADDITIONS, THE COURTESY FLAG CONDITION  
(PARA 2.4 OF MY U/N TELEGRAM SENT VIA MILITARY OF 26 MARCH) IS  
REGARDED HERE AS MOST IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF  
SOVEREIGNTY WHICH IT WOULD UNDERLINE.

3. COUNCILLOR TIME BLAKE EXPRESSED ANXIETIES THAT DESTEFANIS  
MIGHT SAIL HIS SHIP IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, PRECISELY IN ORDER TO  
EMBARRASS OUR OWN VISIT. WE TOLD HIM WE THOUGHT THIS UNLIKELY,  
BUT I TRUST SOMEONE IS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON DESTEFANIS OVER  
THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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14.

Are they?  
mt



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*with whom co-operation?  
and on whom vehicles?  
ml*

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT VISITING JOURNALISTS IN STANLEY  
ARE MAKING THEIR OWN DISPOSITIONS NOW SO THAT THEY CAN TRAVEL  
TO DARWIN WITHOUT MILITARY OR FIG ASSISTANCE TO COVER A POSSIBLE  
ARGENTINE VISIT.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO MONTEVIDEO AND BIS BUENOS AIRES (FOR INFO)

HUNT

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

( Repetition to BIS BA  
referred for departmental decision,  
repeated as requested to other posts. )

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