

Argentin

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 April 1983

Falkland Islands: Visit of Argentine Next of Kin

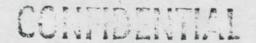
The Prime Minister has seen Port Stanley tel. no. 234 of 5 April. She has noted the comment in paragraph 3 about the need to keep a close watch on Destefanis over the next few days, and has asked what arrangements have been made for monitoring Destefanis' movements.

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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FROM PORT STANLEY 051155Z APR 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

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

YOUR TELNO 25: ARGENTINE NOK VISIT

- 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.
- 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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CONFIDENTIAL with whom co-spendies? 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. [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET] FAIKTAND ISLANDS GENERAL ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION FCO FID FAIKLAND ISLANDS -2-CABINET OFFICE CONFIDENTIAL