

BACK TO TFMIS

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39

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

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 )

HD/PUSD (2)  
HD/SAMD  
HD/FID  
HD/DEFENCE DEPT  
HD/NEWS DEPT  
HD/ERD  
HD/ECD(E)  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF

*Prime Minister*

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

IMMEDIATE

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GRS 440  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FROM UKMIS GENEVA 080940Z APR 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 142 OF 8 APRIL  
INFO IMMEDIATE PERSONAL FOR CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY,  
INFO PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BISBA

YOUR TELNO 83: ARGENTINE NEXT-OF-KIN VISIT TO FALKLANDS

1. THE ICRC DELEGATE-GENERAL FOR LATIN AMERICA, PASQUIER, DESCRIBED TO ME ON THE MORNING OF 8 APRIL AN AFP DESPATCH FROM BUENOS AIRES DATED 8 APRIL WHICH REPORTS DESTEFANIS AS TELLING A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ARGENTINE NEXT-OF-KIN WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE FALKLANDS AFTER 16 APRIL. HE IS REPORTED AS CITING SEVERAL OF THE UK CONDITIONS, AND SAYING THAT LACK OF MONEY WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE A NON-ARGENTINE VESSEL: AN ARGENTINE SHIPPING COMPANY HAD ALREADY OFFERED AN ARGENTINE SHIP FREE OF CHARGE. THE FULL AFP TEXT IS PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE IN LONDON.

2. PASQUIER WANTED US TO HAVE THE FACTS AS KNOWN TO THE ICRC. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE ICRC HAD TRANSMITTED TO BUENOS AIRES ON 31 MARCH INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR DELEGATE, CORTHESEY, TO CONVEY OUR



2. PASQUIER WANTED US TO HAVE THE FACTS AS KNOWN TO THE ICRC. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE ICRC HAD TRANSMITTED TO BUENOS AIRES ON 31 MARCH INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR DELEGATE, CORTHESEY, TO CONVEY OUR CONDITIONS TO DESTEFANIS AND THAT CORTHESEY HAD DONE SO FORMALLY ON 5 APRIL. DESTEFANIS' INITIAL REACTION HAD BEEN "NOT NEGATIVE". HE HAD NOTED OUR CONDITIONS, OBSERVED THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR A NON-ARGENTINE VESSEL AND CREW COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS, AND HAD UNDERTAKEN TO GIVE THE ICRC HIS CONSIDERED REACTIONS. SINCE THEN THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER CONTACT; CORTHESEY HAD BEEN IN MONTEVIDEO ON 6 AND 7 APRIL. PASQUIER NOW INTENDED TO INSTRUCT CORTHESEY TO CONTACT DESTEFANIS AGAIN, POINT OUT TO HIM THAT USING THE PRESS AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION COULD LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND ASK HIM FOR HIS CONSIDERED RESPONSE.

3. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE WE WOULD NATURALLY LISTEN WITH INTEREST TO DESTEFANIS' REACTIONS AS RELAYED THROUGH THE ICRC, OUR CONDITIONS WERE PRECISE AND DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH A PRACTICAL AND HUMANITARIAN BASIS FOR THE OPERATION, AND I SAW LITTLE CHANCE OF OUR BEING ABLE TO CHANGE THEM IN ANY RESPECT. PASQUIER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS.

4. I RECALLED THAT THE ICRC HAD UNDERTAKEN TO GIVE US AN ASSURANCE OF THEIR SATISFACTION THAT THE VISIT WAS OF A HUMANITARIAN NATURE. IN MAKING THEIR JUDGEMENT ON THIS, ICRC WOULD NO DOUBT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE ABOUT DESTEFANIS, INCLUDING THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIM OF THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. PASQUIER SAID HE WOULD ASK CORTHESEY TO TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THEIR ATTITUDE TO DESTEFANIS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, PASQUIER ASKED ABOUT THE CALL ON MR CRANLEY ONSLOW BY THE THREE ARGENTINE RELATIVES DESCRIBED IN YOUR TELNO 47 TO BISBA, ON WHICH I DREW IN REPLY. PASQUIER WAS GRATEFUL, AND NOTED PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT THE GROUP HAD SPOKEN VERY POSITIVELY ABOUT THE CALL AND THE MATERIALS WHICH MR ONSLOW HAD GIVEN THEM. HE EXPRESSED ICRC APPRECIATION FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.

LONG



PS  
 PS/MR EURD  
 PS/MR ONSLOW  
 PS/MR RIFKIND  
 PS/PUS  
 SIR J BULLARD  
~~SIR I SINCLAIR~~ *McDARWIN*  
 MR GIFFARD  
 MR WRIGHT  
 MR ADAMS  
 LORD N G LENNOX  
~~MR EVANS~~ *MR THOMAS*  
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 MR A FORTNAM

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RESTRICTED  
 FM MONTEVIDEO 071832Z APR 83  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 209 OF 07 APRIL

ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT

1. WE HAVE HEARD THAT DESTAFANIS WAS HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BUENOS AIRES THIS MORNING, 7 APRIL.
2. HIS PROPOSED DATE OF EMBARCATION HAS SLIPPED FROM 23 TO 26 APRIL.
3. LOCAL RADIO TODAY CARRIED DETAILS OF TWO OF OUR CONDITIONS FOR PROPOSED VOYAGE, NAMELY THAT NEITHER CREW NOR SHIP SHOULD BE ARGENTINE.

HUTCHINSON

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