

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39

TYPING

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. (4)
 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~~
DESK BY

*M. West - we
 are making
 the point
 clearly.
 MB*

GRS 500
 CONFIDENTIAL
 DESKBY 151200Z
 FROM UKMIS GENEVA 151040Z APR 83
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELNO 150 OF 15 APRIL
 INFO IMMEDIATE PERSONAL FOR CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY,
 MONTEVIDEO

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

YOUR TELNO 94: FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN

1. I HAD A FULL DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC THIS MORNING. HEAD OF CHANCERY ACCOMPANIED ME. PASQUIER, ICRC DELEGATE-GENERAL FOR LATIN AMERICA WAS ALSO PRESENT.
2. I SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL THE POINTS IN PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF TUR. IN PARTICULAR I STRESSED THAT ICRC WAS NOT AN INTERMEDIARY IN A NEGOTIATION BETWEEN HMG AND DESTEFANIS. HMG WERE NEGOTIATING WITH THE ICRC ABOUT A HUMANITARIAN VISIT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IN WHICH DESTEFANIS'S GROUP MIGHT PARTICIPATE, AND IN WHICH OTHERS INCLUDING THE PEOPLE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF TUR MIGHT ALSO JOIN. ALL WE COULD CONSIDER WOULD BE A FIRM PROPOSAL PUT TO US BY ICRC WHICH WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CONDITIONS, NOTABLY ICRC ORGANISATION AND SUPERVISION, THE USE OF A NON-ARGENTINE VESSEL AND WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRESS. (WE HAD ALREADY STRESSED SEPARATELY TO PASQUIER THAT THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF DESTEFANIS HIMSELF SETTING FOOT ON THE ISLANDS.) I ALSO DREW ON THE POINTS IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5.
3. HAY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE REAL INTERESTS OF DESTEFANIS WERE 'PROBABLY NOT EXCLUSIVELY HUMANITARIAN'. HE WAS AN UNPREDICTABLE PERSONALITY, AND ICRC COULD NOT AT PRESENT OFFER ANY GUARANTEE OF HIS GOOD FAITH OR GOOD BEHAVIOUR. BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO TAKE THIS LINE PUBLICLY. PASQUIER POINTED OUT THAT ICRC (WHICH HAS ACUTE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AT PRESENT, RELATED TO THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR) SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE

~~FROM (RAG WAR) SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE~~
THE DETAILED ORGANISATION OF A CHARTER OPERATION OF THEIR OWN,
IN WHICH DESTEFANIS'S GROUP AND OTHERS MIGHT THEN PARTICIPATE.
I STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THAT A VISIT COULD ONLY TAKE PLACE AT ALL
IF THE ICRC COULD CONVINCE US THAT IT WOULD MEET OUR (MINIMUM)
REQUIREMENTS.

4. I ENQUIRED ABOUT THE ICRC ATTITUDE TO DESTEFANIS'S CLAIM
THAT HE INTENDED TO GO AHEAD REGARDLESS, AND ALSO TO FLY THE RED
CROSS FLAG. I GAVE HAY A COPY OF THE TEXT OF SIR ROBIN DAY'S
TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH DESTEFANIS. PASQUIER CONFIRMED THAT
ABUSE OF THE RED CROSS EMBLEM WAS ANATHEMA TO THE ICRC. IF
DESTEFANIS DID THIS, THE ICRC WOULD COMPLAIN AT ONCE TO THE
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WHOSE DUTY IT WAS UNDER THE GENEVA
CONVENTIONS TO SEE THAT THE RED CROSS EMBLEM WAS RESPECTED.

5. PASQUIER CONFIRMED THAT THE ICRC CONTINUED TO RULE OUT ANY
POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING A DESTEFANIS OPERATION WHICH INCLUDED
THE PRESS. HE SAID THAT DESTEFANIS PLAYED A CHAMELON-LIKE ROLE.
IN PRIVATE WITH ICRC DELEGATES, HE CONVINCINGLY PLUGGED THE
HUMANITARIAN LINE: IN PUBLIC AND WITH THE PRESS HE WAS
UNPREDICTABLE AND UNRELIABLE. HE HAD FOR EXAMPLE CLAIMED PUBLICLY
ON 14 APRIL THAT A CONTRACT WITH THE COMPANY WHICH OWNED HIS
INTENDED VESSEL, THE LAGO LACAR, A TRAINING SHIP BELONGING TO THE
ARGENTINE NAVAL SCHOOL, WAS CLOSE TO SIGNATURE. THE STATE
COMPANY WHICH OWNED THE SHIP HAD THEN PUBLICLY AND FORMALLY
DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY CONTACTS WITH DESTEFANIS AT ALL
ON THE SUBJECT.

6. I CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT IN ALL THE
CIRCUMSTANCES I PERSONALLY DID NOT SEE HOW THE DESTEFANIS VISIT
COULD TAKE PLACE. HMG HAD THEIR LEGITIMATE PREOCCUPATIONS.
SO DID THE ICRC. THE IDEAS OF DESTEFANIS DID NOT ACCORD WITH THEM.

7. SEE MIFT

MARSHALL

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SENT/RECD AT 15/1117Z IM/QAL