

*Argentina Relations*

39

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

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

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

(FM BERNE 220310Z)

FM BIS BUENOS AIRES

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 304 OF 21 APRIL

AND TO IMMEDIATE MOD UKMIS GENEVA CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY  
INFO PRIORITT MONTEVIDEO UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON

THREATS TO BRITISH COMMUNITY IN BUENOS AIRES

1. AN ANONYMOUS CALLER ATTEMPTED TO RING THE LOCAL TIMES CORRESPONDENT, ANDREW THOMPSON, AT HIS OFFICE ON 20 APRIL. IN THOMPSON'S ABSENCE, HE DICTATED A STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY FROM THE ARGENTINE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE(AAA) AND DEMANDED THAT IT BE GIVEN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY.

2. THE MESSAGE READS IN TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS: " IF THE ARGENTINE SHIP " LAGO LACAR", WHICH WILL LEAVE BUENOS AIRES ON 30 APRIL CARRYING RELATIVES OF OUR SOLDIERS WHO DIED ON THE MALVINAS, IS ATTACKED BY ANY ENGLISH VESSEL, ALL MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AS WELL AS ONE HUNDRED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY, WHOM WE ALREADY HAVE ON OUR LIST, INCLUDING THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT WILL BE SHOT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE ATTACK".

3. THE WORDING OF THE STATEMENT CORRESPONDS CLOSELY TO THE MESSAGE PASSED TO THE NEWSPAPER CRONICA ON 17 APRIL (OUR TELNO 290 OF 18 APRIL REFERS). THOMPSON CONTACTED THE MFA AND OTHER JOURNALISTS, ALL OF WHOM REGARD THE TELEPHONE CALL AS PROBABLY ONLY A PUBLICITY STUNT. HE SUSPECTS THAT HE WAS SINGLED OUT BECAUSE OF EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED WHEN ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS ON 20 APRIL REPORTED AS FACT A FICTIONAL INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL GALTIERI THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE TIMES.

4. THE AAA WAS A RIGHT - WING TERRORIST GROUP INVOLVED IN POLITICAL KIDNAPPINGS AND MURDERS DURING THE MID-1970'S, BUT WHICH HAS BEEN INACTIVE IN RECENT YEARS AND IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DISBANDED. OSVALDO DESTEFANIS, WHO IS ORGANISING THE NEXT OF KIN VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS, YESTERDAY DENOUNCED THE THREATS AS QUOTE THOROUGH IDIOCY UNQUOTE AND AS PART OF A CONSPIRACY BY QUOTE BRITISH INTERESTS UNQUOTE TO DISCREDIT HIS EXPEDITION BY LINKING IT WITH THE AAA.

5. WHILE NOT UNDERESTIMATING THE LUNATIC FRINGE, WE REMAIN SCPEITICAL THAT THERE IS ANY REAL SUBSTANCE TO THESE THREATS, WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO MAY RECEIVED DURING LAST YEAR'S CONFLICT. THEY HAVE HOWEVER WORRIED SOME OF OUR LOCALLY ENGAGED STAFF AND WE ARE TIGHTENING BISBA SECURITY . THE CRITICAL PERIOD WILL COME IF THE " LAGO LACAR" DOES SAIL WITHOUT UK PERMISSION ON 30 APRIL. HOSTILE ELEMENTS HERE WILL PROBALLY PRESENT EVEN THE PEACEFUL INTERCEPTION OF THE SHIP AS AN ATTACK AND FLASH PRIOR WARNING IF HMG PLANS TO TAKE SUCH ACTION WOULD HELP US.

JOY

POWELL-JONES