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FM BIS BUENOS AIRES

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 303 OF 21 APRIL

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

ARGENTINE NEXT - OF - KIN VISIT

1. OUR SWISS COLLEAGUES REPORT YESTERDAY'S PROPOSED ICRC PRESS RELEASE WAS DELAYED BY THE ORGANISATION'S PRESS SECTION IN GENEVA, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR OSVALDO DESTEFANIS' STATEMENTS CARRIED IN THIS MORNING'S PAPERS (OUR TELNO 301 OF 20 APRIL REFERS). IT WILL APPEAR TODAY WITH A CHANGE IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT REFLECTING THE ICRC'S DISPLEASURE AT THE MANNER DESTEFANIS IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING HIS OPERATION.

2. VARIOUS THEORIES ON THE SCOPE OF OFFICIAL BACKING FOR THE VISIT CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE. IT IS COMMONLY HELD THAT A CERTAIN IF PROBABLY PASSIVE SYMPATHY FOR DESTEFANIS' ENTERPRISE EXISTS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE. WE HAVE NOW ALSO PICKED UP A REPORT THAT THE NAVY TURNED DOWN HIS REQUEST FOR A SHIP TO TRANSPORT THE NEXT-OF-KIN. THE NAVY APPARENTLY RECOGNISED THAT SUCH OBVIOUS INVOLVEMENT MIGHT IMPLY OFFICIAL CONCESSIONS ON FALKLANDS' SOVEREIGNTY, IF THE VISIT WERE ONLY TO BE ASSURED BY ACCEPTING UK CONDITIONS.

JOY
UNQUOTE

POWELL-JONES

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 249 OF 21 APRIL
INFOR ROUTINE UKMIS GENEVA

ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH 'LA MANANA' TODAY, DESTEFANIS STATES THAT URUGUAY HAS BEEN DECEIVED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH AGREED TO A VISIT BY ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN AND IS NOT NOW RESPECTING HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES.
2. DESTEFANIS CRITICISES THE ICRC FOR ITS ROLE, NOT ONLY IN DISREGARDING THE ALTRISTIC PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, BUT IN SIDING WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
3. DESTEFANIS MAINTAINS THAT THE SHIP WILL STILL SAIL ON 30 APRIL, WITH JOURNALISTS ON BOARD. IF THE SHIP IS TURNED BACK, THE WHOLE WORLD SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT. HE ALSO STATES THAT THE VOYAGE WILL BE WITHOUT THE OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

HUTCHINSON

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