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(AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 27 APRIL)

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FM BERNE 231315Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 33 OF 23 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK

CIVIL COMMISSSIONER PORT STANLEY MONTEVIDOEO

MY TELNO 81: ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN

THE FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF A MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES TRANSMITTED TO US TODAY (23 APRIL) BY THE SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOLLOWING HIS DEMARCHE TO THE ARGENTINE MFA ON 22 APRIL.

## BEGINS:

I WAS RECEIVED THIS EVENING AT THE MFA BY AMBASSADOR DUMONT, UNDER SECRETARY, AND PEREZ THOMAS, RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

- 1. THREATS. THE MFA ASSURED ME THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR WERE TAKING ALL NECESSARY PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

  THOSE THREATENED SHOULD CONTACT THE ''COMMISSARIAT DU DOMICILE.''
  MR JOY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AND HE HIMSELF HAD ALREADY TAKEN CONSEQUENTIAL ACTION.
- 2. DESTAFAINS' JOURNEY. I HANDED OVER A NOTE ON THE BRITISH POSITION. THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVES READ IT CAREFULLY BUT WERE NOT ABLE TO GIVE ME ANY IMMEDIATE REACTION. NEVERTHELESS IN THE DISCUSSION I RAISED OUR WISH TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID AN INCIDENT WHICH WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

ENDS

2. IN HANDING OVER THIS MESSAGE TO US THE HEAD OF THE FOREIGN INTERESTS SECTION GAVE US ALSO A NOTE OF SOME QUOTE PERSONAL REFLECTIONS UNQUOTE FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES. OUR TRANSLATION OF THESE IS AS FOLLOWS:-

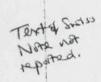
BEGINS:

I THINK THE BRITISH TEXT REPRESENTS A HARDENING IN COMPARISON WITH THE PREVIOUS POSITION QUOTE THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES ENVISAGED ACCEPTING ONLY ONE SUCH VISIT WHICH SHOULD HAVE AUTHORITIVE BACKING IN ARGENTINA UNQUOTE. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IT SEEMS OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT

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CONFIDENTIAL THIS. THIS BRITISH HARDENING, WHICH TRANSFERS TO THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL A MATTER HITHERTO PRIVATE, SEEMS TO ME TO GO AGAINST THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WILL ONLY BE ARRIVED AT BY A CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY ALSO ON THE BRITISH SIDE. ONE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE FACT THAT CERTAIN ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CIRCLES ARE SEEKING, FOR INTERNAL REASONS, TO PROFIT FROM THIS AFFAIR AND THAT IT WOULD BE VERY EASY TO MOBILISE PUBLIC OPINION BY MEANS OF THE SLIGHTEST INCIDENT. MOREOVER, ARGENTINE PUBLIC OPINION FINDS IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE BRITISH FORBID, FOR WHAT ARE REGARDED AS FORMAL REASONS, MOURNING RELATIVES FROM PAYING THEIR RESPECTS, IN THE SAME WAY AS THEIR BRITISH COUNTERPARTS HAVE DONE, WHICH HELPS THE CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT CIRCLES MENTIONED ABOVE. ENDS. POWELL-JONESS FOR COD. PLEASE ENSURE THAT AND ADVANCE COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE RESIDENT CLERK THIS AFTERNOON (23 APRIL). [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET] FAIKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL FCO ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION FID FAIKLAND ISLANDS CONFIDENTIAL CABINET OFFICE