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FM BERNE 231315Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 33 OF 23 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK
CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY MONTEVIDEO

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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/ THIS.

*Text of Swiss
Note not
reported.*

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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 AN ADVANCE COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE RESIDENT CLERK THIS AFTERNOON (23 APRIL).

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2

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