

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 August 1983

The Prime Minister has seen Port Stanley telegram No. 447 of 2 August about the Argentine next-of-kin visit as well as JIC Report 83(1A)15. She has commented that we must not go ahead with the arrangements for the Argentine next-of-kin visit until we can be sure that the threat to which the JIC Report refers proves to be ill-founded. I should be grateful therefore if you could hold up such arrangements for the visit as are in train until the end of this week unless further intelligence is received.

Tim Flesher

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

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NR

IS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLIARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LOED N G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URE
MR ~~GILMORE~~ Cartledge

ED/PUSD (2)
ED/SAMD
ED/FID
~~ED/DEFENCE DEPT~~
ED/NEWS DEPT
ED/EEB
ED/ECD(E)
ED/UND
ED/PLANNING STAFF

83(1A)15

ADVANCE COPY

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 OFF
DIO)

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

MR A TITCHENER)
~~MR G ROBERTS~~, IAT) DOT
MR A FORNAM

RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

Handwritten notes:
No! must check with...
whether...
sic report...
out to...
will forward

GRS 160
CONFIDENTIAL
FROM PORT STANLEY 022040Z AUG 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGAM NUMBER 447 OF 2 AUGUST

ARGENTINE NEXT-OF-KIN VISIT

1. THE PROPOSAL THAT HMG SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE ON ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT THROUGH THE SWISS AUTHORITIES WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCILLORS TODAY (2 AUGUST). IN PARTICULAR THEY ACCEPTED THAT WE NEED NOT INSIST ON THE COURTESY FLAG BEING FLOWN (BUT THAT RED CROSS FLAG MUST): THAT SMALL, CAREFULLY CHOSEN, POOL OF JOURNALISTS BE EMBARKED; AND THAT IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES COULD BE WAIVED.

Handwritten note:
that no further steps should be taken to facilitate the next of kin visits until time proves that correct sic reports are shown to be unfounded 2/8

2. COUNCILLORS HOPED THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AT THE COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE OF THIS PROPOSAL. THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT INSIST ON PROPOSAL BEING KEPT CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE MOMENT., BUT COUNCILLORS HOPED THAT, SHOULD ARGENTINA TRY TO MAKE PROPAGANDA GAINS AT THE UN, HMG'S PROPOSAL WOULD THEN BE PUBLICISED UNDERLINING THAT ISLAND COUNCILLORS HAD AGREED IT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

HUNT

CONFIDENTIAL

HL

11 August 1983

Thank you for your letter of 9 August about relations with Argentina for which the Prime Minister was very grateful. Mrs. Thatcher noted the position as regards next-of-kin visits to the Falklands and agreed that you should resume action on 15 August on the conditions set out in your letter.

Tim Flesher

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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