

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39 37

PS  
PS LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR WHITNEY  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
~~PS/MR STEWART~~  
SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGET  
MR ADAMS  
LORD N G LENNOX  
MR EVANS  
MR URE

MR CARTLEDGE

ED/PUSD (2)

ED/SAID

ED/FID

~~ED/DEFENCE DEPT~~

ED/NEWS DEPT

ED/ERD

ED/ECD(E)

ED/UND

ED/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 OFF  
DIO )

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

MR A TITCHENER DIT (Victoria St)

Mr A FORTNAM IAT/ D. TRANSPORT

RESIDENT CLERK

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 192341Z OCTOBER 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO 20

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3031 OF 10 OCT

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK, ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN,  
DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXENBOURG, PARIS, ROME, UKREP BRUSSELS

NY TELNO 2962: UNGA DEBATE: FALKLANDS

1. BURT (ASSISTANT SECRETARY, EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, STATE DEPARTMENT) ASKED THE MINISTER TO CALL YESTERDAY TO FOLLOW UP MY DISCUSSION WITH EAGLEBURGER ON 13 OCTOBER. HE SAID THAT EAGLEBURGER HAD UNDERTAKEN TO COME BACK TO US ONCE THE AMERICANS HAD MADE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT THEIR VOTING INTENTIONS.

2. READING CAREFULLY FROM A PREPARED PIECE OF PAPER, BURT SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WHICH THE ARGENTINIANS HAD GIVEN THEM WAS LEGALLY EQUIVALENT TO LAST YEAR'S. HE CONTINUED THAT, PRIMARILY ON GROUNDS OF POLICY CONSISTENCY, THE US WOULD VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION IF NO OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE WAS ADDED TO THE DRAFT. THE US CONTINUED TO SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES AS THE BEST MEANS TO SETTLE THIS



~~FOR THE RESOLUTION IF NO OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE WAS ADDED TO THE DRAFT. THE US CONTINUED TO SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES AS THE BEST MEANS TO SETTLE THIS DISPUTE AND DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ATTEMPTING TO APPLY PRESSURE WOULD ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ALSO HOPED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD REFRAIN FROM TAKING STEPS WHICH WOULD HEIGHTEN TENSIONS.~~

2. THOMAS SAID THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THE ARGUMENT ABOUT CONSISTENCY BUT HAD HOPED THAT ARGENTINA'S REFUSAL TO DECLARE A FORMAL END OF HOSTILITIES SINCE THE PREVIOUS UNGA DEBATE WOULD HAVE LED THE AMERICANS TO ABSTAIN THIS TIME. QUOTE LEGALLY EQUIVALENT UNQUOTE WAS A NEAT FORMULATION BUT THE FACT WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME STRENGTHENING OF THE TEXT. THIS DECISION WAS THEREFORE DISAPPOINTING. BUT WHAT WAS NOW IMPORTANT WAS THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TO REPEAT LAST YEAR'S UNHELPFUL PERFORMANCE BY LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THE ARGENTINE DRAFT. WE LOOKED TO THE AMERICANS TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE. BURT TOOK NOTE.

3. THOMAS SAID THAT AS REGARDS THE REFERENCE TO A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME, BURT WOULD BE AWARE THAT AS LONG AS THE ARGENTINIANS STUCK TO THE VIEW THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD ONLY BE ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY, THERE WOULD BE NOTHING TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT. HE SAID HE NOTED THE AMERICAN RELUCTANT TO APPLY PRESSURE BUT HE HOPED NEVERTHELESS THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO RENOUNCE HOSTILITIES AND MOVE TOWARDS NORMALISATION. THIS WAS OUR OBJECTIVE AND IT WAS SURELY IN THE US INTEREST TO REMOVE THIS SOURCE OF TENSION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

4. BURT UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THESE POINTS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE CONSIDERED THAT THE US WOULD WISH TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE BUT WOULD EXPECT A DEGREE OF GIVE AND TAKE FROM BOTH SIDES.

5. ON CERTIFICATION, BURT CONFIRMED THAT UK CONCERNS WERE WELL KNOWN. BUT THIS WAS A BILATERAL US-ARGENTINE ISSUE, IT HAD ARISEN IN A HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT WHICH PREDATED THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. IF THERE WAS NOW A LEGAL BASIS (IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE) FOR A US SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, LOGIC SUGGESTED THAT THIS SHOULD GO AHEAD. ARMS SALES WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF ARGENTINE REQUESTS AND ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE US WOULD WISH TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US ABOUT THIS.

6. THOMAS REPLIED THAT, AS THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF HAD MADE CLEAR DURING HER RECENT VISIT, CERTIFICATION LEADING TO ARMS SALES WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN BRITAIN. IT WAS NOT



6. THOMAS REPLIED THAT, AS THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF HAD MADE CLEAR DURING HER RECENT VISIT, CERTIFICATION LEADING TO ARMS SALES WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN BRITAIN. IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE REACTION IF BRITISH FORCES CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM ARMS SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES. BURT HAD MENTIONED HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE SURELY INDIVISIBLE. THERE COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN A CLEARER SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAN IN THE FALKLANDS, WHICH REMAINED UNDER THREAT. BURT HAD THE GRACE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS WAS AN ARGUMENT WHICH THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES USED IN THE CONTEXT OF EL SALVADOR.

7. AFTER THE MEETING, A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT SAID THAT VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TALKING POINTS HAD BEEN USED WITH THE ARGENTINES, WHO HAS RESPONDED BY URGING THAT PRESSURE BE PUT ON US OVER THE AIRFIELD IN PARTICULAR. THE AMERICANS HAD DECLINED. THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT IT WAS AGREED WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO US ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF THE ARGENTINE DRAFT, BUT IT WAS HARD TO GUARANTEE THE CONDUCT OF THE US MISSION IN NEW YORK. AS FOR CERTIFICATION, CURRENT TALK WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT WAS OF TIMING THIS TO COINCIDE WITH INAUGURATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WE CONTINUED TO MAKE APPROPRIATELY DISCOURAGING NOISES.

WRIGHT

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GRS 380

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FM WASHINGTON 132231Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 2962 OF 13 OCT 83

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN  
THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME UKREP BRUSSELS

THE FALKLANDS : UNGA DEBATE AND US ARMS CERTIFICATION

1. I CALLED ON EAGLEBURGER THIS MORNING TO ALERT HIM TO THE IMPORTANCE YOU ATTACHED TO US HANDLING OF THIS YEAR'S UNGA FALKLANDS RESOLUTION. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD TAKEN A VERY POOR VIEW LAST YEAR NOT ONLY OF US SUPPORT FOR THE ARGENTINE DRAFT, BUT ALSO OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE US HAD DISCUSSED THE TERMS OF THIS DRAFT WITH THE ARGENTINES WITHOUT KEEPING US INFORMED, AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAD LOBBIED OTHERS TO JOIN THEM IN SUPPORT OF IT. ACCEPTING THAT THE US SAW A NEED TO LOOK AFTER ITS INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA, I THOUGHT A RECONCILIATION OF INTERESTS ~~INTERESTS~~ ~~INTERESTS~~ COULD PERFECTLY WELL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH AN ABSTENTION. IN ANY CASE WE EXPECTED THE US WOULD KEEP US FULLY IN THE PICTURE DURING THE RUN UP TO THE UNGA DEBATE, AND WOULD REFRAIN FROM LOBBYING OTHERS.

2. EAGLEBURGER SAID HE HAD NOT FOCUSSED ON THIS QUESTION YET. HE COULD NOT FORECAST HOW THE US WOULD VOTE THIS YEAR BUT HE COULD PROMISE US THAT WE WOULD BE SPARED LAST YEAR'S FAILURE TO CONSULT FULLY, FOR WHICH ENDERS HAD BEEN TO BLAME. (THE STATE DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, HAVE TOLD THE ARGENTINIANS THAT THE US IS LIKELY TO VOTE FOR THE LATIN DRAFT RESOLUTION).

3. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASISE THE QUESTION OF ARMS CERTIFICATION, AND UNDERLINED THAT CERTIFICATION WOULD BOTH OBLIGE

*Head in file*

*ms*



3. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASISE THE QUESTION OF ARMS CERTIFICATION, AND UNDERLINED THAT CERTIFICATION WOULD BOTH OBLIGE US TO MAINTAIN OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND HAVE <sup>AN UN</sup> DESIRABLE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UK, NOT LEAST AS THE ARGENTINES CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO DECLARE AN END TO HOSTILITIES. EAGLEBURGER SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SAY AUGHT OF COMFORT. IN HIS JUDGEMENT IT WAS NOW A QUESTION NOT OF WHETHER US CERTIFICATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BUT OF WHEN. IT WAS ONLY OUR CONCERNS, WHICH WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD, WHICH HAD DELAYED CERTIFICATION UNTIL NOW. HE POINTED OUT THAT CERTIFICATION WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ENTAIL THE ARGENTINES GETTING ALL THE EQUIPMENT THEY WANTED. HE REPEATED THE ASSURANCE SHULTZ GAVE YOU LAST MONTH THAT WE WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE A FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN.

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