

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39 39

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD W G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URS

MR CARLEIDGE

ED/PUSD (2)

ED/SAWD

ED/FID

ED/NEWS DEPT

ED/ED

ED/EC(D)

ED/UND

ED/PLANNING STAFF

~~Mr. Keble and Mr. ...~~

*Repeated
to Delhi
2ms
28/14*

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (3)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR
MISS M E GUND
MR LITTLE

TREASURY

SIR B ARMSTRONG
MR A D S GOODALL
DIO

CABINET OF
DIO

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

MR A TITCHENER DIT (Victoria)

MR A FORTNAM IAT/ D. TRANSPORT

~~PRESIDENT COPY~~
ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 281400Z

FM MADRID 281250Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 654 OF 28 NOVEMBER

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, ROME, ATHENS AND UKHIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 610

RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

1. AT DINNER ON 25 NOVEMBER I WAS APPROACHED BY YANEZ, THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER. HE SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING FELIPE GONZALEZ SHORTLY TO BUENOS AIRES FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT. FELIPE GONZALEZ ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS EVENT AS DID THE SOCIALIST PRIME MINISTERS OF FRANCE, ITALY AND GREECE. IT WAS AN ALMOST UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT A HOPEFULLY DECENT AND MODERATE NEW GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA FREE FROM THE EXCESSES BOTH OF PERONISM AND MILITARISM. GONZALEZ WAS CONVINCED THAT ALFONSO'S SUCCESS, IF INTERNATIONALLY BOOSTED, COULD HELP TO USHER IN A GREATLY IMPROVED NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MODERATE GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE AND IN LATIN AMERICA.

2. YANEZ CONTINUED THAT FELIPE GONZALEZ WAS OF COURSE WELL AWARE OF THE BRITISH POSITION OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THE RESERVED ATTITUDE WE NATURALLY HAD TO TAKE FOR THE TIME BEING TOWARDS THE NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. GONZALEZ CERTAINLY DID NOT WISH TO INTRUDE UNHELPFULLY. NEVERTHELESS YANEZ THOUGHT THAT ON RETURN TO MADRID HE MIGHT WELL WISH TO CONVEY HIS IMPRESSIONS TO THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER. THESE WOULD BE OF A GENERAL NATURE, MAINLY EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF SEIZING THE PRESENT UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY.

3. I SAID THAT I HOPED GONZALEZ WOULD BEAR IN MIND THE STRENGTH OF OPINION IN BRITAIN. THE OPERATION TO RECOVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY ALL SECTIONS OF BRITISH OPINION. MR MICHAEL FOOT HAD MADE THIS CLEAR THAT DAY IN MADRID. YOUNG MEN HAD LAIN DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THEIR RELATIVES WERE STILL IN MOURNING. IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN AFFRONT TO THE DEAD IF HMG WERE NOW TO APPEAR TO BE THROWING AWAY THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE CAMPAIGN WAS FOUGHT. ARMED AGGRESSION MUST

WERE STILL IN MOURNING. IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN AFFRONT TO THE DEAD IF HMG WERE NOW TO APPEAR TO BE THROWING AWAY THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE CAMPAIGN WAS FOUGHT. ARMED AGGRESSION MUST NOT BE SEEN TO PAY OR TO HAVE NO PRICE ATTACHED. THERE WAS MOREOVER THE IMPORTANT PRACTICAL POINT. WHILE THE NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO DECLARE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL FOR US TO MAINTAIN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IN A STATE OF OPERATIONAL DEFENCE. I THOUGHT HMG WOULD NOT DISAGREE THAT THE NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE MORE PROMISING THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS FOR MANY YEARS. BUT THEY INHERITED THEIR COUNTRY'S STRONGLY NATIONALIST CLAIMS AND HAD SHOWN LITTLE INCLINATION SO FAR TO DEPART FROM THEM. I SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT THE CHANCES OF ANY SPANISH MESSAGE GETTING ACROSS SUCCESSFULLY TO HMG WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THE TEXT TOOK ACCOUNT OF THESE IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND HUMAN FACTORS AND ALSO IF IT COULD BE DELIVERED WITHOUT PUBLICITY. YANEZ PROMISED TO NOTE THESE POINTS.

4. GONZALEZ IS LIKELY TO BE A PROMINENT FIGURE AT THE INAUGURATION IN BUENOS AIRES. IF THEREFORE YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS TO MAKE WE SHOULD DO SO SOON. MORAN WILL ALSO PROBABLY BE GOING TO BUENOS AIRES AND MR RIFKIND MIGHT PERHAPS SAY SOMETHING TO HIM HERE TOMORROW NIGHT (7PM YOUR TIME).

PARSONS

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