



Mr Coles

*AD 6.
12*

discussed.

deft to President Reagan authorized reports.

No action by the time being as message to

Argentina

President of Argentina.

If there is time on the plane, the Secretary of State would welcome a word with the Prime Minister.

A As you know, they have already discussed the
B possibility of a message from the Prime Minister to the
C new President of Argentina. I attach a copy of my letter
D of 29 November, summarising the case for considering such
E, F a move and a redraft of the proposed message.

C The Prime Minister has also received a message from
D President Reagan about certification for arms sales. I
E, F attach a draft reply, which takes into account the points
made by Oliver Wright on the draft sent to us by the
Department.

[Signature]

(B J P Fall)

5 December 1983

cc: PS

Sir J Bullard

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats
CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby
FLASH

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
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5
6 FROM FCO 4 DECEMBER 1983
7 TO FLASH ATHENS *SSS*
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 AND TO FLASH WASHINGTON
10 FOR PS TO SECRETARY OF STATE AND PS TO PRIME MINISTER
11 ARGENTINA: UNITED STATES CERTIFICATION AND ARMS SALES
12 1. Following is suggested draft message from Prime Minister
13 to President Reagan. It incorporates comments by the PUS. If
14 HM Ambassador in Washington has substantive ^{VIEWS} on the form or
15 content of the draft, grateful if he could tele^{graph} ~~phone~~ them
16 direct to Athens, repeating to us.
17 2. Draft text begins:
18 Quote I appreciate your informing me of your decision in
19 advance of the other Governments involved. But this is as you say
20 a delicate question in Britain which will generate a lot of
21 criticism.
22 Like you, I welcome the restoration of democracy to
23 Argentina, and the other progress there in the field of human
24 rights. I have several times publicly welcomed the return of
25 the democratic process in Argentina. I note that certification

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword is not
File number	Dept	Distribution <i>FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL.</i>
Drafted by (Block capitals) RESIDENT CLERK		
Telephone number 8272		
Authorised for despatch <i>T.P.H. Murray</i>		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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 2 is not equivalent to arms sales. But I cannot share your view
 3 that your announcement is a good means of exerting influence in
 4 Argentina. The incoming Government there are not only committed
 5 to reductions in military spending; their Foreign Minister-
 6 designate has said that arms purchases are not a priority
 7 for them, and that they would prefer other signs of approval.
 8 I fear that the Argentines who will find your announcement most
 9 welcome are the military, who will immediately look ahead from
 10 certification to arms procurement. The Argentine armed forces
 11 are now in eclipse but it is from them that we must in the
 12 longer term fear renewed threats to stability in the South
 13 Atlantic as well as to human rights in their own country. I
 14 suspect that they will see your decision as cutting across
 15 Dr Alfonsin's commitment to bring the armed forces under control-
 16 the process which your Government and mine so keenly wish to
 17 succeed.
 18 I welcome your undertakings about major supplies. I am
 19 glad that close consultations can continue between us. These
 20 can be considered further at the meetings this week between
 21 Geoffrey Howe and George Shultz, and between Michael Heseltine
 22 and Caspar Weinberger. Your officials have said that it is
 23 important to maintain the confidentiality of these consultations.
 24 I would certainly not wish to say anything in Parliament or in
 25 public that might imply either that I was acquiescing in a
 26 decision to sell any particular item to Argentina, or that
 27 you had ignored requests from us not to do something which
 28 ~~we thought~~ could enhance the threat to our forces in the
 29 Falklands. But the fact that certification, however legitimate,
 30 **IN US TERMS,** opens the way for arms sales will cause great concern here, and
 31 it will be necessary for me to express publicly the regret
 32 I am now conveying to you. I propose to add that I shall
 33 continue to make my views plain to you, and to point out that
 34 your Administration has given public assurances that you will

*and about the careful
 evaluation of Argentine de
 quest on a case by case
 basis.*

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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 not supply Argentina with sophisticated weaponry that could help them mount another attack on the Falklands (this was the very welcome line taken publicly by Caspar Weinberger on 10 November).

You speak of normalising your relations with Argentina. This is also our declared policy. In welcoming the restoration of democracy there, I have made it clear that I cannot discuss sovereignty over the Falklands. But I have also said that I am willing to talk to the new Government about commercial and diplomatic relations, and that I hope that Dr Alfonsin and his Government will be able to respond positively to our proposals, ignored by the Junta, for the improvement of relations between our two countries. I hope that George Bush, when he represents the United States at Dr Alfonsin's inauguration on 10 December, will commend this approach personally to the new President as the only realistic way ahead. End quote.

NNNN
 HOWE

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