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DD 081030Z BERNE

GRS 578

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DESKBY 081030Z BERNE AND UKDEL NATO (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

FM FCO 081003Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE BERNE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 137 OF 8 DECEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, MADRID, UKDEL NATO  
(FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

PRIORITY OTHER EC POSTS

YOUR TELNO 229: ARGENTINE ELECTIONS

1. THE PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO SEND THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ALFONSIN. BEGINS: [ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR INAUGURATION I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MANY DIFFERENCES, WE CAN ALL TAKE PLEASURE IN THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY TO ARGENTINA, BELIEVING IT WILL BRING FREEDOM AND JUSTICE TO ALL YOUR PEOPLE. TODAY BRINGS NEW HOPE TO YOUR COUNTRY.] ENDS.

2. PLEASE ASK THE SWISS TO TELEGRAPH THIS TEXT URGENTLY TO PROBST IN BUENOS AIRES. WE HOPE HE WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY TO ALFONSIN ON 10 DECEMBER. WE PROPOSE TO RELEASE THE TEXT PUBLICLY ON 10 DECEMBER.

3. WE SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF THE SWISS STATE SECRETARY COULD HAND TO AN APPROPRIATELY SENIOR MEMBER OF ALFONSIN'S PERSONAL STAFF, AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE, A NOTE DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE EXACT TERMS OF OTHER BRITISH COMMENT ON THE ELECTIONS IN ARGENTINA. TEXT OF THIS WOULD BE RELEASED PUBLICLY AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. IT IS AS FOLLOWS. BEGINS FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ARGENTINA THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT, AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAS COMMENTED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS, BOTH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND IN AN IMPORTANT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW. REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE TO THESE STATEMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE PRESS. IT MAY, NONETHELESS, BE HELPFUL FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO HAVE THE PRECISE TEXTS OF THESE.

ON 31 OCTOBER 1982 THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

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A.S.C.  $\frac{8}{12}$   
p.a.

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ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ABOUT THE ARGENTINE ELECTIONS: QUOTE WE WELCOME THIS STEP TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA. WE HOPE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE MORE INCLINED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE IDEAS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD TO SECURE THE RESTORATION OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US. UNQUOTE.

ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT THE ELECTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ON 1 NOVEMBER, MRS THATCHER SAID, QUOTE WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED WHEN A COUNTRY RETURNS TO DEMOCRACY. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. I HOPE THAT, NOW THAT THAT COUNTRY HAS RETURNED TO DEMOCRATIC WAYS, IT WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER BETTER ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ITSELF AND BRITAIN UNQUOTE. MRS THATCHER ALSO SAID IN HER NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY MAIL ON 7 NOVEMBER 1983 QUOTE I AM WILLING TO ENTER INTO TALKS. WE WANT GOOD COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE WANT NORMAL RELATIONS. BUT I AM NOT ENTERING INTO TALKS ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY. UNQUOTE.

4. FOR WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME AND MADRID. PLEASE ENSURE THAT BUSH/MAUROY/CRAXI/GONZALEZ IS MADE AWARE, IN CONFIDENCE, OF THESE STEPS WE ARE TAKING. WE HOPE THAT, WHEN THEY ARE IN BUENOS AIRES, THEY WILL COMMEND TO ALFONSIN AND HIS TEAM THIS POLICY OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS AS THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY AHEAD. WE WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF THEY COULD TRY TO ELICIT FROM THE NEW ARGENTINE PRESIDENT SOME INDICATION THAT HE RECIPROCATES OUR FEELINGS.

5. OTHER ADDRESSEES SHOULD SPEAK SIMILARLY TO LEADING PERSONALITIES TRAVELLING TO ALFONSIN'S INAUGURATION AND TO OTHER APPROPRIATE CONTACTS.

6. TO ALL. GRATEFUL FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE REPORT OF ANY ARGENTINE REACTION.

HOWE

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL  
FCO  
FID  
CABINET OFFICE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.]

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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8 December, 1983

Message to New Government in Argentina

Thank you for your letter of 7 December.

The Prime Minister agrees that the telegram which you enclosed may be despatched.

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Subject cc Master  
Ops.



This message was sent  
in a slightly different  
form. but keep on file.

10 DOWNING STREET

A. J. C. 5/12

THE PRIME MINISTER

f.a.

To the President of Argentina

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T206/83

Although we have  
many differences, we can  
all take pleasure in the  
restoration of democracy  
to Argentina believing that  
it will bring freedom and



THE PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNING STREET, LONDON, W. 1

justice to all your  
people. To-day brings new  
hope to your country.

Margaret Thatcher

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FILE SH

8 December, 1983

Message to New Government in Argentina

Thank you for your letter of 7 December.

The Prime Minister agrees that the telegram which you enclosed may be despatched.

A. J. COLES

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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NR



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Would you be willing  
for your message to the  
President of Argentina to be handled  
in the way?

7 December 1983

Dear John,

A.C.C. 7.12

Yes Mr

Message to New Government in Argentina

You passed to us this morning the text of a short personal message from the Prime Minister to Alfonsin.

I now enclose a telegram which requests the Swiss to transmit the message on their own channels to their State Secretary Dr Probst who will be in Buenos Aires for the inauguration. The telegram also indicates that we would propose to reissue the text publicly here on 10 December.

The Foreign Secretary also thought that it would be useful if Dr Probst could hand to a member of Alfonsin's staff a note recapitulating the public statement we have made about the outcome of the Argentinian elections, to ensure that the incoming Argentinian government is accurately informed of our position. The enclosed telegram contains a proposed text for such a note.

The Foreign Secretary has seen this telegram and agrees with it. I would be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content with it.


Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

|  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
|  | Classification and Caveats<br><b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> | Precedence/Deskby<br><b>IMMEDIATE</b> |
|  | CONFIDENTIAL                                      |                                       |

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|---------|----|---|
| ZCZC    | 1  | ZCZC  |
| GRS     | 2  | GRS   |
| CLASS   | 3  | CONFIDENTIAL  |
| CAVEATS | 4  |   |
| DESKBY  | 5  |   |
| FM FCO  | 6  | FM FCO  |
| PRE/ADD | 7  | TO IMMEDIATE BERNE  |
| TEL NO  | 8  | TELEGRAM NUMBER   |
|         | 9  | AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, MADRID, UKDEL NATO      |
|         | 10 | (FOR SEC OF STATE'S PARTY)  |
|         | 11 | PRIORITY OTHER EC POSTS   |
|         | 12 | YOUR TELNO 229: ARGENTINE ELECTIONS                               |
|         | 13 | 1. The Prime Minister wishes to send the following personal       |
|         | 14 | message to Alfonsin. Begins: On the occasion of your inauguration |
|         | 15 | I wanted to let you know that, although we have many differences, |
|         | 16 | we can all take pleasure in the restoration of democracy to       |
|         | 17 | Argentina, believing it will bring freedom and justice to all     |
|         | 18 | your people. Today brings new hope to your country. Ends.         |
|         | 19 | 2. Please ask the Swiss to telegraph this text urgently to Probst |
|         | 20 | in Buenos Aires. We hope he will be able to deliver it personally |
|         | 21 | to Alfonsin on 10 December. We propose to release the text        |
| ///     | 22 | publicly on 10 December.  |
| //      | 23 | 3. We should also be grateful if the Swiss State Secretary        |
| /       | 24 | could hand to an appropriately senior member of Alfonsin's        |
|         | 25 |   |

|  |                        |                                     |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| NNNN ends telegram                                 | BLANK                  | Catchword<br><br><b>personal</b>    |
| File number  | Dept<br>Private Office | Distribution<br>ce                  |
| Drafted by (Block capitals)<br><b>P F Ricketts</b> |                        | <b>Falkland Islands<br/>General</b> |
| Telephone number<br><b>233 4641</b>                |                        |                                     |
| Authorised for despatch                            |                        |                                     |
| Comcen reference                                   | Time of despatch       |                                     |



OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats  
CONFIDENTIAL

Page  
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1 <<<<  
2 personal staff, and to the Foreign Minister-designate, a  
3 note drawing attention to the exact terms of other British  
4 comment on the elections in Argentina. Text of this ~~will~~ should  
5 be released publicly at the same time as the Prime Minister's  
6 message. It is as follows. Begins Following the general  
7 elections in Argentina the British Government issued a formal  
8 statement, and the Prime Minister has commented on the out-  
9 come of the elections, both in the House of Commons and in  
10 an important newspaper interview. Reference has been made  
11 to these statements in the Argentine press. It may,  
12 nonetheless, be helpful for the new Government of Argentina  
13 to have the precise texts of these.

14 On 31 October 1982 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
15 issued the following statement about the Argentine  
16 elections: Quote we welcome this step towards the  
17 restoration of democracy in Argentina.  
18 We hope that the new Government will be more inclined to  
19 respond positively to the ideas we have put forward to  
20 secure the restoration of normal relations between our two  
21 countries. This is the only realistic way towards the  
22 restoration of confidence between us. Unquote.

23 Answering a question about the elections in Parliament  
24 on 1 November, Mrs Thatcher said, quote we are always  
25 pleased when a country returns to democracy. There can be  
26 no question about that. I hope that, now that that  
27 country has returned to democratic ways, it will be prepared  
28 to consider better economic and commercial relations  
29 between itself and Britain unquote. Mrs Thatcher also  
30 said in her newspaper interview published in the Daily Mail  
31 on 7 November 1983 quote I am willing to enter into talks.  
32 We want good commercial relations, diplomatic relations.  
33 We want normal relations. But I am not entering into talks  
34

NNNN ends  
telegram

BLANK

Catchword

about

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

|  |   |                  |
|--|---|------------------|
|  | Classification and Caveats<br><b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> | Page<br><b>3</b> |
|  | ↓   |                  |

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1 <<<<  
 2 about sovereignty. Unquote.  
 3 4. For Washington, Paris, Rome and Madrid. Please ensure  
 4 that Bush/Mauroy/Craxi/Gonzalez is made aware, in  
 5 confidence, of these steps we are taking. We hope that,  
 6 when they are in Buenos Aires, they will commend to  
 7 Alfonsin and his team this policy of improving bilateral  
 8 relations as the only realistic way ahead. We would also  
 9 be grateful if they could try to elicit from the new  
 10 Argentine President some indication that he reciprocates  
 11 our feelings.  
 12 5. Other addressees should speak similarly to leading  
 13 personalities travelling to Alfonsin's inauguration and to  
 14 other appropriate contacts.  
 15 6. To all. Grateful for earliest possible report of any  
 16 Argentine reaction.

18 HOWE  
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| NNNN ends telegram | BLANK | Catchword |
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