

P 252100Z JUL 82
FM HM CIVIL COMMISSIONER

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TO PRIORITY FCO LONDON TEL NO OF 29 JUL 82.

YOUR TEL NO PERSONAL 13 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1. THERE WERE A FEW SURPRISES YESTERDAY AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SINCE THE ARGENTINE INVASION
2. AFTER MY OPENING STATEMENT, COUNCILLOR PECK COMPLAINED THAT THE ATTENDANCE OF THE MILITARY COMMISSIONER AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (INTERIM ADMINISTRATION) ORDER REPRESENTED A BREACH OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT CONSULTATION. THIS WAS A PREDICATBLE COMPLAINT GIVEN THE TRADITIONAL SENSITIVITY ON THIS PRINCIPLE. I HAD HAD SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COUNCILLORS IN PRIVATE CONSULTATION ON THIS BUT I DO NOT EXPECT TO HEAR MORE OF IT - THEY ALL SEE THAT IT MAKES COMMON SENSE FOR THE GENERAL TO BE PRESENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON MILITARY MATTERS
3. ALL COUNCILLORS THEN SPOKE OF THEIR GRATITUDE TO HMG AND TO THE TASK FORCE FOR THEIR LIBERATION
4. THERE WAS NO REAL DISCUSSION OF THE LONGER TERM FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS, ALTHOUGH ONE COUNCILLOR EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT PERSONAL VIEWS THAT I HAD EXPRESSED ON THE RADIO ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION OF A LOOSER ASSOCIATION WITH BRITAIN
5. THERE WAS LITTLE OF INTEREST TO REPORT ON THE DISCUSSION ON MOTIONS CONTAINED IN MY TEL NO 099, APART FROM THE WITHDRAWAL OF PECKS MOTION ON RECRUITMENT IN UK REPORTED SEPARATELY. HE ALSO WITHDREW HIS MOTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AS THIS SUBJECT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY A SELECT COMMITTEE
6. WE WERE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY REPLY FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO HMG REQUEST TO ENSURE THAT THEIR WARSHIPS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT DID NOT ENTER A ZONE 150 MILES AROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE PROMISED TO ASK YOU IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATION TO OR FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. HUNT

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