

SECRET

3



HOME OFFICE
 QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
 LONDON SW1H 9AT

Prime Minister

7 October 1982

Dear John

Thank you A.J.C. 2/10.

CITY OF LONDON SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 4 October in which you report the Prime Minister's enquiry, inter alia, about contingency plans for possible Argentine action on 12 October in London. *with A.J.C.?*

Police precautions are extensive but there is no specific intelligence to suggest that there will be any violent protests or demonstrations at the City of London salute to the Task Force on that day or elsewhere in London.

The only significant threat is considered to be posed by Irish terrorist groups. PIRA have the ability to gather together an experienced team at short notice and their bitter resentment of British success in the Falklands would make the Parade an attractive target.

The 12th of October is a national holiday in Argentina (Colombus Day) and while the possibility that individual Argentinians may stage a symbolic gesture of defiance cannot be discounted, they are not judged to have the capability or organisation to pose a serious threat.

A pacifist group London Peace Action is expected to organise a peaceful demonstration of some 30 people dressed in white and carrying banners.

As to policing arrangements, the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police are in close touch with each other and, jointly, with the military authorities. The Metropolitan Police have responsibility for some 400 yards of the route and, with the military, for arrangements for transporting servicemen to the point from which the procession is to start. The City of London Police have charge of the majority of the route, including the two major focal points, the Mansion House and the Guildhall. The arrangements of both forces will be on a par with those made for the Royal Wedding last year. Before both the rehearsal in the early morning of 9 October and the procession itself, buildings along the route will be swept. The rehearsal will have a police presence. On the day of the

/contd ...

A J Coles, Esq.

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procession, the overt policing will be by uniformed officers deployed at the major points. Other officers will survey the route from rooftops. The route will be divided into sectors, each under the command of a senior officer, with central co-ordination and ready access to an armed capability in both the Metropolitan and City areas.

I am copying this to John Holmes (FCO), Nick Evans (MOD), and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
C J Walters

C J WALTERS

SECRET



FILE

SW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 October, 1982

City of London Salute to the Task Force

The Prime Minister was grateful for your letter of 7 October, the contents of which she has noted.

A. J. COLES

Colin Walters, Esq.,
Home Office

do

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 October 1982

Argentina/Falkland Islands

The Prime Minister saw over the weekend the section on Argentina and the Falkland Islands contained in JIC(82)(WSI)39.

With regard to the first paragraph which refers to Argentinian naval exercises to the north of the Falklands, the Prime Minister has asked whether we still have nuclear submarines in the area. Could you please let me know the exact position urgently?

The Prime Minister also noted the possibility that Argentina might take some action on 12 October (the day of the Task Force parade), either in London or in the Falkland Islands area. She has asked whether contingency plans are ready. I should be grateful for a reply on this point as quickly as possible.

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office). *Also copied to Home Office.*

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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GRS 279

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FM FCO 011530Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES
GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 180 OF 1 OCTOBER 1982

'SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE': ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA

1. A PARADE TO SALUTE THE TASK FORCE WILL BE HELD IN LONDON ON 12 OCTOBER. THIS IS ALSO 'COLUMBUS DAY', WHICH IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN SPAIN AND MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ARGENTINA (MY TELNO 107 TO ASUNCION - NOT TO ALL). THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE (TO WHICH ATTENTION SHOULD NOT OF COURSE BE DRAWN) BUT THE DATE CANNOT BE CHANGED.

2. IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE THE ARGENTINES MAY WELL SEEK TO CAPITALISE ON THE COINCIDENCE OF DATES AND TO REPRESENT THE PARADE AS A DELIBERATE INSULT TO ALL LATIN AMERICANS.

LINE TO TAKE

3. IN ANSWERING LOCAL CRITICISM YOU SHOULD TRY TO PLAY THE MATTER DOWN, AND SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR PARTICULAR AUDIENCE:

(A) THE DATE OF THE PARADE WAS SELECTED BECAUSE IT WAS ONE WHICH WAS CONVENIENT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELD SOONER BECAUSE SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE (EG HMS INVINCIBLE) HAVE ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE UK. ONCE THEY WERE ALL BACK, IT MADE SENSE TO HOLD THE PARADE AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE.

(B) THE PARADE IS ORGANISED BY THE CITY OF LONDON AND NOT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

(C) WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO WISH TO OFFEND OUR LATIN AMERICAN FRIENDS.

4. IF YOU THINK IT WOULD HELP YOU COULD MENTION THE PART BRITISH FORCES PLAYED IN THE 19TH CENTURY IN HELPING LATIN

/AMERICAN

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AMERICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, BUT IT IS A POINT THAT SHOULD
OBVIOUSLY BE USED WITH CARE.

5. THE COI AND BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PLAY
THE EVENT DOWN.

PYM

BY TELEGRAPH

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[ROUTINE]

AND SAVING TO CERTAIN OTHER POSTS

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GRS 270
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FM LIMA 011700Z OCTOBER 1982
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 341 OF 2 OCTOBER

SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE

MAYOR OF LIMA HAS TOLD ME THAT TOGETHER WITH 20 MAYORS FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN CAPITALS HE HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT SPAIN FROM 7 TO 13 OCTOBER. HE HAS HEARD THAT THE OPPORTUNITY WILL BE TAKEN TO REGISTER IN SOME WAY A COLLECTIVE PROTEST AT THE CHOICE OF DATE FOR THE VICTORY PARADE IN LONDON. HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT EMERGE EITHER DURING OR AS A RESULT OF A DINNER WHICH HE BELIEVES THE KING OF SPAIN IS OFFERING TO THE VISITING MAYORS ON 12 OCTOBER. HE EMPHASISED THAT WE WERE PERFECTLY JUSTIFIED IN HAVING A PARADE TO CELEBRATE THE FALKLANDS VICTORY BUT DESCRIBED THE CHOICE OF DATE AS QUOTE QUITE PROVOCATIVE UNQUOTE.

2. I GAVE HIM SOME OF THE BACKGROUND, TOLD HIM THE DATE COULD NOT (NOT) BE CHANGED AND ASKED HIM TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO PLAY THINGS DOWN.

3. FCO PLEASE REPEAT AS NECESSARY.

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Mrs. M. PATTISON, LAEPD, ODA.
Mr. Alan Titchener AUSD: DOT
MR. C.W. ROBERTS IAT/DOT

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IMMEDIATE

FM PANAMA CITY 082332Z OCT 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 139 OF 8 OCTOBER
INFO ASUNCION BOGOTA BRASILIA CARACAS LIMA MONTEVIDEO MEXICO CITY
LA PAZ QUITO SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA SANTIAGO WASHINGTON NEW YORK.

FOR RESIDENT CLERK.

SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE

1. I WAS SUMMONED TO THE MFA TODAY BY THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, JOSE CABRERA, WHO ASKED THAT I SHOULD CONVEY TO MY GOVERNMENT THE DEEP CONCERN AND REGRET OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT THAT A FALKLANDS VICTORY PARADE IS TO BE HELD IN LONDON ON 12 OCTOBER, A DATE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR 500 MILLION SPANISH LATIN AMERICANS. THE MINISTER EMPHASISED THAT A CELEBRATION OF THIS NATURE ON THAT PARTICULAR DATE COULD ONLY DEEPEN EXISTING WOUNDS.
2. I ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT THE CHOICE OF DATE WAS ENTIRELY A COINCIDENCE, AND IN NO WAY WAS IT OUR INTENTION TO OFFEND THE SUSCEPTIBILITIES OF THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN. I THEN DREW UPON THE POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF GUIDANCE 180.

SUSCEPTIBILITIES OF THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN. I THEN
DREW UPON THE POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF GUIDANCE 180.

3. A COPY OF THE NOTE HANDED TO ME BY THE MINISTER EXPLAINING MORE
FULLY THE CONCERN OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE SENT BY BAG
ON 13 OCTOBER.

FCO PASU INFO ADDRESSEES.

WHITE

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FM QUITO 082130Z OCTOBER 1982

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 137 OF 8 OCTOBER

INFO ROUTINE ASUNCION, BRASILIA, CARACAS, LIMA, MEXICO CITY, PANAMA CITY, LA PAZ, MONTEVIDEO, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA, SANTIAGO

SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE

1. I WAS SUMMONED BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY (POLITICAL) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY AND WAS TOLD THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDENT HAD HEARD WITH SURPRISE AND DISPLEASURE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO HOLD A VICTORY PARADE ON 12 OCTOBER. THIS WAS A DATE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS AND ITS CHOICE FOR THE PARADE COULD ONLY BE REGARDED AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT.

2. VEINTIMILLA MADE CLEAR THAT THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OBJECTING TO THE HOLDING OF THE PARADE BUT TO THE DATE. THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION HAD 13 OCTOBER OR ANY OTHER DATE BEEN CHOSEN.

3. I SAID THAT THE CHOICE OF DATE HAD BEEN UNINTENTIONAL AND HAD BEEN MADE NOT BY HMG BUT BY THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ISSUE ORDERS IN SUCH A MATTER. VEINTIMILLA SAID THAT THIS MADE SOME DIFFERENCE BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PARADE WOULD BE ATTENDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. I UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT TO YOU THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN.

5. FCO PLEASE PASS INFO TO ALL ADDRESSEES

SUXTON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

(Repetition to PANAMA, SAN JOSE
referred for departmental decision,
repeated as requested to other posts.)

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MR CW ROBERTS IAT/DOT

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GRS 390

UNCLASSIFIED

FM MADRID 131150Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 527 OF 13 OCTOBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK

INFO SAVING TO BOGOTA, BRASILIA, BIS BUENOS AIRES, CARACAS, HAVANA, LA PAZ, LIMA, MEXICO CITY, MONTEVIDEO, PANAMA CITY, PORT STANLEY, QUITO, RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTIAGO, SAO PAULO.

FALKLANDS PARADE IN CITY OF LONDON

1. THE SPANISH PRESS REPORT THE LONDON MILITARY PARADE UNDER FRONT PAGE HEADLINES "BRITISH AFFRONT TO THE HISPANIC WORLD", DIARIO 16: "THE ENGLISH INVENT ANTI-HISPANIDAD" YA: "LONDON COMMEMORATES VICTORY IN THE MALVINAS ON THE DAY OF HISPANIDAD", ABC: "GRATUITOUS OFFENCE TO HISPANIC PEOPLES BY LONDON" ALCAZAR. "YESTERDAY THERE WERE TWO CELEBRATIONS OF 12 OCTOBER. ONE IN LONDON IN THE MOST EXTREME NATIONALIST STYLE WHICH IS ANACHRONISTIC AND SHAMEFUL TO CELEBRATE THE BRITISH VICTORY IN THE MALVINAS. IN THE OTHER THE KING OF SPAIN LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE AFFIRMED THAT ONLY LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY UNITED CAN GUARANTEE THE FUTURE", DIARIO 16.

2. THE REPORTS FROM LONDON CORRESPONDENTS QUOTE NEWS DEPARTMENT AS SAYING THAT THE DATE WAS AN UNINTENTIONAL COINCIDENCE. THEY ALSO REPORT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND A UCD DELEGATION WHICH ATTENDED THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONGRESS. THE PARADE IS REPORTED FACTUALLY WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WHICH IS DESCRIBED

CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONGRESS. THE PARADE IS REPORTED FACTUALLY WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS TRIUMPHALIST. TV AND RADIO HAVE ALSO GIVEN THE EVENT SIMILAR FULL AND CRITICAL COVERAGE.

3. AT THE MAJOR CEREMONY HELD IN SPAIN TO MARK THE DAY OF HISPANIDAD AT WHICH THE KING AND QUEEN AND ALL LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WERE PRESENT, ROBLES PIQUER, PRESIDENT OF THE IBER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION, EXPRESSED SORROW AND IRRITATION ABOUT THE MILITARY PARADE IN LONDON TAKING PLACE ON THE SAME DAY.

4. EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES ARE EVEN MORE CRITICAL. "MRS THATCHER HAS TAKEN A GIANT STEP TOWARDS BEHAVING LIKE GALTIERI". "THE BRITISH WHO DURING CENTURIES WERE THE MODEL FOR LIBERTY HAVE NOW LAID ON A SHAMEFUL NINETEENTH CENTURY SHOW TO CELEBRATE A PYRRIC VICTORY IN THE FALKLANDS".

5. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE STRONGEST CRITICISM IS FROM DIARIO 16 AND CAMBIO 16 WHICH WERE THE MOST CRITICAL OF THE ARGENTINE INVASION AND SUPPORTED BRITAIN'S RIGHT TO RECOVER THE FALKLANDS.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

PARSONS

HNNN

SENT/RECD AT 13/1253Z-R6P/HK