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*There is a JIC assessment  
in the hot box.*

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FM MONTEVIDEO 252015Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 735 OF 25 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL), MODUK

*A.J.C. 26/10*NOTT'S VISIT TO FALKLANDS: POSSIBLE ARGENTINE REACTIONS

FROM JOY VISITING MONTEVIDEO

*mf*

1. BEFORE I LEFT BUENOS AIRES YESTERDAY IT WAS SUGGESTED TO ME BY A CLOSE ARGENTINE FRIEND, LUIS VERNET (DIRECT DESCENDANT OF GOVERNOR VERNET) THAT THE ARGENTINES MIGHT WISH TO MARK IN SOME WAY MR NOTT'S VISIT TO THE ISLANDS. HE EVEN SUGGESTED IN A HALF JOGULAR FASHION THAT AN ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP THE MINISTER AND BRING HIM TO BUENOS AIRES MAY BE MADE.

2. HE SAID A HIGH-RANKING RELATION IN THE AIR FORCE HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM THE TACTICS ADOPTED TO KEEP BRITISH ISLAND DEFENCES ON THEIR TOES BY SENDING INTO THE FIRST CIRCLE OF PROTECTIVE RADAR COVER SLOWER CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT THAN THE MIRAGES, CAPABLE OF PENETRATING THE FIRST CIRCLE AND TURNING BACK TO AVOID PENETRATING THE INNER CIRCLE AND SETTING OFF THE ATTACK ALERT.

3. HE AND HIS FATHER, ALSO LUIS VERNET, HAD, STRANGELY, BEEN SUMMONED TO A MEETING IN THE MFA AT 2000Z HOURS, TODAY MONDAY IN WHICH ANOTHER HIGH-RANKING AIR FORCE OFFICER WAS INVOLVED. VERNET SPECULATED THAT SOMETHING WAS IN THE WIND. HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD MY WIFE AFTER ABOUT SIX WHISKIES AT OUR AFTERNOON BARBEQUE THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER THE FALKLANDS QUESTION DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. QUOTE IF WE CAN GET OVER THE PERIOD 25 OCTOBER TO 15 NOVEMBER WITHOUT PROBLEM, THE GOING WILL BE EASIER THEREAFTER. UNQUOTE.

4. ALTHOUGH A GOOD FRIEND, VERNET, LIKE MANY ARGENTINES, DOES TEND TO OVER-STATEMENT AND TO OVER RATE HIS OWN ROLE. MUCH OF THE ABOVE MAY HAVE LITTLE OR NO FOUNDATION BUT IT SEEMS TO ME IMPORTANT THAT YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF IT.

HUTCHINSON

BT

( Repetition to PORT STANLEY  
referred for departmental decision,  
repeated as requested to other posts. )

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