

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

43

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
HD WED
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/FID (2)
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
RESIDENT CLERK

(TYPISTS)

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)

MR M. PATTISON) FID
MR C. ROTH) WAFS, ODA

MR A TITCHENER) DOT
MR C W ROBERTS , IAT)

RESTRICTED

FM ROME 031520Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO. 557 OF 03 NOV 82

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, BIS BUENOS AIRES
SAVING FOR INFO PARIS, BONN, THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG,
COPENHAGEN, ATHENS, DUBLIN, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO, HOLY SEE

MIPT: THE FALKLANDS AT THE UN: ITALY AND THE DESAPARECIDOS

1. THE PUBLICATION IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA OF 31 OCTOBER OF A LIST OF 297 ITALIANS SAID TO FIGURE AMONG THE "'DESAPARECIDOS'" HAS PROVOKED A POLITICAL STORM IN ITALY.
2. SUCCESSIVE ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS ARE BEING CRITICISED FOR NOT DOING ENOUGH TO FIND OUT THE FATE OF ITALIAN CITIZENS OR OF ARGENTINES WITH ITALIAN FAMILY LINKS WHO DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAVE REPLIED TO PRESS CRITICISM BY SAYING THAT THEY ASKED THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES FOR INFORMATION ON ITALIANS WHO DISAPPEARED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS NOW SAID THAT THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES WILL BE ASKED URGENTLY WHETHER ANY ITALIANS ARE AMONG THOSE FOUND IN THE RECENTLY DISCOVERED COMMON GRAVES. THE ARGENTINE MFA HAS REPORTEDLY DENIED RECEIVING ANY ITALIAN PROTEST NOTE UNTIL NOW.
3. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAS PROVOKED CRITICISM BOTH FROM THE OPPOSITION AND WITHIN THE GOVERNING COALITION. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) HAS CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AS INEFFECTUAL AND WILL REQUEST A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. THE SOCIALISTS (PSI) HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACT WITH FIRMNESS TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE ARGENTINES. THEY HAVE

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4. IN DEFENDING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THE REPUBLICAN (PRI) SPOKESMAN IMPLICITLY CRITICISED THE PSI, RECALLING THAT ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THE LATTER WERE DEMANDING THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THE ARGENTINE REGIME OVER THE FALKLANDS. THE OFFICIAL SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PAPER (UMANITA) MAKES THE SAME LINK, AND CRITICISES THOSE WHO ENDED UP DURING THE FALKLANDS CRISIS SUPPORTING A TYRANNICAL AND BLOOD-STAINED REGIME. LA REPUBBLICA (INDEPENDENT LEFT-WING) HAS AN OUTSPOKEN EDITORIAL CRITICISING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND INDEED THE POPE FOR EQUIVOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ARGENTINE JUNTA. "THE JUNTA WE BACKED DURING THE FALKLANDS WAR WAS THE SAME THAT HAS PUT 20,000 ARGENTINE CITIZENS UNDER THE GROUND, IN CONTEMPT OF EVERY HUMAN RIGHT, AMONG THEM 300 ITALIAN CITIZENS".
5. THERE IS ALMOST NO REPORTING OF THE FORTHCOMING VOTE AT THE UN ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, AND NO EXPLICIT LINK IS MADE IN THE MEDIA BETWEEN ITALY'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE 'DESAPARECIDOS' AND HER VOTING INTENTIONS ON THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION.
6. FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES EXCEPT HOLY SEE

ARCULUS

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