

PS
 PS/MR BYRD
 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

IMMEDIATE

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

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

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

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

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FM PARIS 191940Z NOV 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 1109 OF 19 NOVEMBER 1982
 INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK

FOLLOWING FROM PETRIE IN ABSENCE FROM PARIS OF AMBASSADOR.

YOUR TELNO 646: FRENCH ARMS FOR ARGENTINA.

1. GUTMANN BEING UNAVAILABLE I CALLED THIS EVENING ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE QUAI AND SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED.

2. MARTIN TOOK NOTE. HE RECALLED THE TERMS OF CHEYSSON'S LETTER OF 3 SEPTEMBER TO YOU (FCO TELNO 305 TO PARIS) AND SAID THAT THE PRESENT DELIVERIES REPRESENTED PART FULFILMENT OF CONTRACTS PREVIOUSLY SIGNED AND PAID FOR. HE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, GO BEYOND THE UNDERTAKINGS WHICH CHEYSSON HAD THEN GIVEN THAT THE EXECUTION OF THESE CONTRACTS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN A "PRUDENT AND PROGRESSIVE MANNER" AND THAT THE QUESTION OF ANY FUTURE CONTRACTS WOULD BE MOST CAREFULLY EXAMINED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. I REPLIED THAT HE WOULD SEE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CHANGED EITHER, AND THAT HIS REFERENCE TO FURTHER DELIVERIES MADE IT MORE RATHER THAN LESS IMPORTANT THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD TAKE US INTO THEIR CONFIDENTIALITY AND THEIR POLICY

AND PROGRESSIVE MANNER" AND THAT THE QUESTION OF ANY FUTURE
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TO FURTHER DELIVERIES MADE IT MORE RATHER THAN LESS IMPORTANT
~~THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD TAKE US INTO THEIR CONFIDENCE. THEIR POLICY~~
AT PRESENT SEEMED ONLY TOO LIKELY TO LEAD TO FURTHER DISAGREEABLE
EXCHANGES BETWEEN US.

FRETWELL

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SENT RECF AT 19 2000Z AB/RJ

OK FOR FINLS KK

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Argentina

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OO PARIS
GRS 390
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 191530Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE PARIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 647 OF 19 NOVEMBER
AND TO MODUK
MY TELNO 646: AM39S FOR ARGENTINA

NO 22
H.A.

1. IN CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN MY TUR YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE FRENCH ARE AWARE OF THE FULL PRESS LINE BEING TAKEN BY NEWS DEPARTMENT, IE:

'THESE ARE PART OF THE BALANCE OF AN EXISTING CONTRACT FOR WHICH LICENCES HAD ALREADY BEEN ISSUED. WE ARE NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT DELIVERIES HAVE BEEN RESUMED, PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINITIVE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES ON THE PART OF ARGENTINA. AS WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID, HOWEVER, IT IS FOR EACH COUNTRY TO DECIDE ITS OWN POLICY ON ARMS SALES.'

2. STRICTLY FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, NO 10 TOLD THE LOBBY THIS MORNING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NO COMMENT ON THE EXPORT OF EXOCETS AND SUPER ETENDARD AIRCRAFT BY FRANCE TO ARGENTINA. THE COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HER ON EARLY NEWS BROADCASTS WERE 'LURID': THE GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS THE ONE STATED BY THE FCO SPOKESMAN (PARA 1 ABOVE).

UNATTRIBUTABLY NO 10 HAVE REFERRED TO THE FACTS THAT THIS IS A LONG-STANDING CONTRACT, AND THAT THE FRENCH ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR VIEWS. THEY HAVE CONCEDED THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED AT THE ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT BECAUSE OUR VIEWS WERE ALREADY WELL KNOWN. THEY HAVE DECLINED TO ANSWER A QUESTION ON FUTURE CONTRACTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WAS HYPOTHETICAL AND CONCLUDED BY AFFIRMING THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND HAD BEEN LOYAL AND HELPFUL DURING THE CONFLICT. ON YOUR APPROACH TO THE FRENCH, THEY ARE SPEAKING AS IN PARA 3 OF MY TUR.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM THE FRENCH THAT, SPEAKING ON BBC'S 'WORLD AT ONE' TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID:
'WE HAVE ASKED ALL OUR ALLIES NOT TO DELIVER ARMS UNTIL WE HAD GOT AN UNDERTAKING FROM THE ARGENTINES THAT HOSTILITIES HAD

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37061 - 1

PERMANENTLY CEASED. YOU SEE, THEY HAVE NEVER ADMITTED THEY HAVE PERMANENTLY CEASED. THEY HAVE IN FACT STOPPED AT THE MOMENT, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER SAID HOSTILITIES ARE PERMANENTLY AT AN END. NOW, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A VERY BIG GARRISON AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A BIG GARRISON DOWN THERE BECAUSE WE MUST KEEP ENOUGH PEOPLE THERE IN SHIPS, IN AIRCRAFT AND IN MEN AND EQUIPMENT BOTH TO DETER, AND, IF NECESSARY, TO DEFEAT. AND WE SHOULD FEEL VERY DEEPLY HURT, I THINK, IF THE ARMAMENTS OF OUR ALLIES WERE USED AGAINST US. ANYTHING OF COURSE IS A THREAT UNTIL THEY HAVE AGREED PERMANENTLY TO STOP HOSTILITIES WHICH THEY HAVE NOT.'

PYM

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DESKBY 191700Z
FM FCO 191215Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE PARIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 646 OF 19 NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK

Handwritten:
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L-a

FRENCH ARMS FOR ARGENTINA

1. PLEASE TELL THE QUAI AT A SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND I ARE NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE HANDED OVER AM39 AND SUPER ETENDARD AIRCRAFT, PARTICULARLY WHEN ARGENTINA HAS STILL NOT ACCEPTED A DEFINITIVE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

2. YOU SHOULD ADD MY STRONG HOPE THAT, HAVING RELEASED THESE ITEMS ORDERED IN 1981, THE FRENCH WILL NOT ACCEPT NEW ORDERS FROM ARGENTINA FOR NEW AM39S OR SUPER ETENDARDS NOR FOR OTHER SENSITIVE WEAPONS. IF THERE ARE SUCH SALES IN THE FUTURE, REACTIONS HERE WILL INEVITABLY BE STRONGER. YOU SHOULD ALSO STRESS TO THE FRENCH THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THEIR TELLING US WHAT THEY ARE UP TO OVER ARMS SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA (FURTHER BACKGROUND IN ADDENDUM TO BRIEF FOR ANGLO FRENCH SUMMIT).

3. WE ARE CONFIRMING TO THE PRESS THAT YOU ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE FRENCH. YOUR APPROACH WILL NOT BE DESCRIBED AS A PROTEST AND I AM NOT CALLING IN YOUR OPPOSITE NUMBER HERE. FULLER PRESS LINE IS BEING TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY.

PYM

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