

ALA 020/1

RECEIVED IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
18 JAN 1980

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

① Mr Fearns (2)

Mr Duffell 15/1

Mr Briggs

Mr Malcausch 16/1

Mr Davies

Mr Fearns ✓

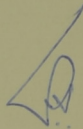
ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S FIRST CALL

1. When he paid his first call this afternoon the new Argentine Ambassador mentioned two matters of substance, while excusing himself from the rules about courtesy calls on the basis of our long-standing friendship.
2. The first point concerned human rights and the United Nations. Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas said that he had received instructions to speak to the Minister of State or me about the forthcoming meeting in Geneva at the beginning of next month of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. His Government have received notice of some six questions that are to be raised in non-public session at the meeting, to each of which they propose to reply in detail. They were, however, concerned to preserve the confidentiality of the Commission's proceedings and to ensure that none of those countries which had been particularly critical of Argentina's human rights record should attempt to turn these questions to political advantage. He claimed that the record had in fact materially improved in the past few months and would go on doing so, so long as the Government - and especially the hawks in and around it - were not unduly provoked by unfair or unreasonable criticisms. On this point, I said it would be best if he could let us have an aide memoire as soon as possible setting out his Government's case, so that I could ensure that it was brought to the attention of those concerned in the FCO and in our Delegation.
3. The other matter he touched on briefly was, inevitably, the Falkland Islands. He said that he had been particularly delighted with his appointment to the Embassy in London, which he already knew very well, because he thought that the prospect of improving and intensifying relations between Argentina and Britain across the board had never been better than they were now. He had mentioned in his first call on Mr Ridley a few moments ago the brightening prospects for Anglo-Argentine trade and the very satisfactory development of the Argentine economy, especially its declining rate of inflation and its rapidly expanding foreign currency reserves, which made it possible for the Government to think in terms of some fairly ambitious projects requiring the input of foreign investment or goods. The only cloud on the horizon in our relations lay, as we all knew, in the Falkland Islands dispute. He claimed that in his own Foreign Ministry he had upheld the British view that in our bilateral negotiations we should address ourselves simultaneously to the essential question of sovereignty to which Argentina attached primordial importance, and to a wide spectrum of economic and other matters relating to the Islands and their Dependencies. He did not see either the possibility or the necessity of making rapid progress. What was important was that we should be seen to be moving forward across a broad front. He believed that his appointment

/as

as Ambassador in London would facilitate this methodical and unhurried approach (though he failed to make it clear what role HM Ambassador Designate in Buenos Aires would be expected to play!). He thought that high level ministerial meetings should be few and far between and that their essential purpose should be to verify and sanction practical agreement already reached through the normal diplomatic channels.

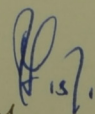
4. Sr Ortiz de Rozas and his wife will be dining with us informally tomorrow night. No doubt I shall be treated to a further disquisition on the key role which he expects to play in obtaining a satisfactory solution of the Falkland Islands dispute. I should add that I found him very cheerful and friendly on this occasion, in contrast to the somewhat condescending manner he adopted when I called on him in his own Ministry last August - possibly because he was then accompanied by a number of other officials. He seems to be genuinely delighted to be in London again, despite the plumbing and other material difficulties he is encountering in his rather run down residence.



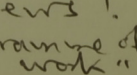
G W HARDING

14 January 1980

On para 2, we can await the promised anti-memoire.

Para 3 is interesting + suggests that Sr. Ortiz de Rozas has in mind that the main exchanges should take place here - at official level. It is not however clear whether this reflects his Minister's views. What do we think? 

(2) we have briefed our delegation through UNO not to take a forward position: copy attached

(3) our OD paper invites "colleagues to agree that fco resume talks at ministerial level". The measured nature of the Ambassador's view is welcome - but we shall of course want to use HMA in BA to present our views! Sr Ortiz appears to be reflecting Edwin Paster's "programme of work" 

Reference .....

Mr Duggan  
Mr Fearn  
Mr Malcomson  
cc Mr Toole DOT  
Mr CD Mr Treu

cc: PS/Mr Ridley  
Mr Harding  
Mr Martin (P&CD)

CALL BY SR ORTIZ DE ROZAS ON MR RIDLEY

1. The new Argentine Ambassador in London, Sr Ortiz de Rozas, called on Mr Ridley on 14 January. He conveyed Sr Cavandoli's special greetings to the Minister of State and said that he would be telling the Secretary of State, when they met, that the Argentine Government are totally committed to developing the best possible links with the United Kingdom in both the economic and the political fields. The UK and Argentina shared common goals and should work together to achieve them. Mr Ridley welcomed this and asked the Ambassador to pass on to Sr Cavandoli his best wishes and the hope that they will meet again soon.

2. Sr Ortiz de Rozas said he was a close friend of the Argentine Minister of the Economy, Dr Martinez de Hoz, and knew the latter was very interested in developing the UK's economic links with Argentina. An ambitious investment programme had recently been inaugurated, costing about £50 billion over 10 years, and there would be excellent opportunities for British firms. (The Dutch had just won a gas pipeline contract for \$1½ billion). As new Ambassador to London, he would be encouraging British businessmen to become involved. Mr Ridley welcomed this and promised that the Government would do all they could to help. The Ambassador said that there was steadily increasing foreign interest in Argentina; as a net exporter of energy (gas) and food, Argentina was a very attractive investment proposition. The Economist would shortly be publishing a special survey of Argentina.

3. The Falklands issue was not raised by name but Mr Ridley said that we hoped soon to be in a position to have further political discussions. Other foreign policy questions touched on included Belize, on which the Ambassador claimed not to be briefed, Cuba, whose policies in Central America he agreed were expansionist and interventionist, and Afghanistan, where, while condemning the Soviet invasion, he thought benefit could be reaped in terms of increased Western Solidarity.

4. Sr Ortiz de Rozas said that during the year his political staff will be augmented by a second Minister and a second Counsellor. Sr Blanco will remain as Minister.

CC Bright

C C Bright  
South America Department  
233 4077 K 274

15 January 1980