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CONFIDENTIAL

A helpful minute + a welcome outcome
 to be heard however to be in mind that
 this will make bal. representation (133)
 more likely in subsequent rounds:
 that if we get down to negotiations on
 sovereignty it will not be under plain
 sailing. But realistically it may be the
 way to proceed.

FALKLAND ISLANDS TALKS IN NEW YORK: PRESENCE OF ISLAND COUNCILLOR

1. Before the New York talks, we thought that there might be some delicacy about Mr Monk's position and the way in which it could affect the operation of our delegation. In fact, no difficulties arose. Mr Monk was entirely co-operative and helpful throughout, seeking at every stage to fall in with what we proposed. We were careful, at every stage, to check with him as appropriate. He did not seek to take or to claim an independent position and accepted his role as a member of Mr Ridley's delegation. He did not press the delegation for any interpretations outside the formal meetings and seemed content both within and outside the meetings to act largely as an observer. It was difficult to tell at times if Mr Monk was always aware of the implications of what was being said in the talks but he was generally shrewd enough to understand what was going on. Personally, he got on excellently with all members of our delegation and apparently also with the Argentines; his relaxed and unpretentious manner was appealing.

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2. On briefs, there were no problems. We agreed on arrival amongst ourselves, before seeing Mr Monk:
- i) not to raise with Mr Monk the question of briefs at all;
 - ii) not to have any briefs visible i.e. not to put papers on the table during the talks or at delegation meetings (this helped also to underline with the Argentines our view of the exploratory nature of the talks);
 - iii) that I kept with me in a locked briefcase a set of our briefs, ready to consult them as background papers on provide facts for the Minister as necessary.

3. During the talks, Mr Monk's presence caused no problems. Mr Ridley made it clear at the preliminary full delegation meeting that he would be doing the speaking but that he would like to call on delegation members and Mr Monk as necessary to elucidate or

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expand on points. Mr Monk spoke on a number of occasions during the talks at Mr Ridley's invitation, and at the invitation of Comodoro Cavandoli, put to Mr Monk through Mr Ridley. He put the Islanders' view of the Argentine claim and urged the need for further informal links between the Islands and the mainland. He spoke well, making clear, short and simple statements of his views. He volunteered the text of his main contribution, a summary of Island views, to the delegation in advance of delivering it and accepted changes proposed.

4. On reporting back to Councillors on his return, Mr Monk accepted without dissent the need for preserving the confidentiality of the talks. Mr Ridley told him that he recognised that Mr Monk would be under some pressure to tell all when he got back. Mr Monk seemed to appreciate our understanding of his likely difficulties and said that he knew that he would have such a problem even before he left the Islands. He was not concerned so much with those who had opposed his attendance at the talks but in showing those who had supported him that their decision had been right. We agreed therefore that Mr Monk should be given authority to report extensively on his own contributions to the talks and sought and obtained explicit Argentine endorsement of this. We agreed with the Argentines also that Mr Monk should be allowed to give some of the flavour and climate of the talks and to mention the wish and agreement of both sides to refer back to their respective Governments after the talks. In agreeing to this, Comodoro Cavandoli asked only what Mr Monk had thought the climate of the talks had been: Mr Monk replied "favourable and constructive"; Comodoro Cavandoli agreed with a smile and a wave of the arm.

5. Within the delegation, Mr Monk expressed Islander views on a number of items, some of which were mentioned at the talks. On oil and fish co-operation with Argentina, Mr Monk thought that these could be sold to the Islanders if such co-operation were put under

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the sovereignty umbrella. On Southern Thule, Mr Ridley made it clear that he did not agree with the Islander position on the Scientific Co-operation Agreement; Mr Monk implied that Councillors would not be prepared to go ahead with this Agreement at all. On the one occasion on which we touched on lease-back within the delegation, Mr Monk commented that this would instantly recognise Argentine sovereignty and was not acceptable to the Islanders.

6. The Argentines seemed more than content with Mr Monk's presence and with Mr Monk personally. Mr Monk has been friendly over some time with some members of the Argentine delegation e.g. Colonel Balcarce and Comodoro Bloomer Reeve. The Argentines seemed to welcome the opportunity which Mr Monk's presence offered to continue their efforts to woo the Islanders and extend Argentine presence in the Islands. Mr Monk's proposal for further contacts between the Islands and the Argentine mainland was eagerly taken up by the Argentines. Comodoro Cavandoli seemed concerned only about any possible breach of confidentiality and the repercussions which this might have for him in Argentina but, once assured that we would all agree on the need for such confidentiality, was entirely relaxed.

G A Duggan
South America Department

2 May 1980

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