


C O N F I D E N T I A L

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GRS 323

CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 141400Z  
FM FCO 141115Z APR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 708 OF 14 APRIL  
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA.



FALKLAND ISLANDS: ICRC

1. AS YOU KNOW, THE ICRC HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SOME DAYS TO OBTAIN ARGENTINE CONSENT TO THEIR SENDING A GROUP OF THREE ICRC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TO WATCH OVER THE WELFARE OF THE CIVIL POPULATION. WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS THAT THE ICRC REQUEST SHOULD BE APPROVED AND AN ICRC PRESENCE ESTABLISHED ON THE ISLANDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
2. ON 12 APRIL WE ASKED THE AMERICANS THROUGH THE US EMBASSY HERE TO EXERT THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE ARGENTINES ON BEHALF OF THE ICRC. A SIMILAR REQUEST WAS MADE BY THE ICRC THEMSELVES TO THE US MISSION IN GENEVA. YOU HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED TO THE AMERICANS THAT THEY SHOULD PUT THEIR MUSCLE BEHIND THE ICRC REQUEST RATHER THAN PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN PROPOSAL TO SEND AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL TO THE ISLANDS. WE UNDERSTAND (YOUR TELNO 1260) THAT THE AMERICANS ARE NOT NOW PURSUING THEIR PROPOSAL BUT SO FAR AS WE KNOW THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT (NOT) YET TAKEN ANY ACTION WITH THE ARGENTINES ON THE ICRC REQUEST.
3. PLEASE ENSURE THAT HAIG IS PERSONALLY AWARE THAT I AM VERY ANXIOUS TO SEE THE ICRC ESTABLISHED ON THE ISLANDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HOPE THAT THE AMERICANS WILL INTERVENE QUICKLY AND FIRMLY WITH THE ARGENTINES. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT THE POPULATION IS BEING MALTREATED BUT GIVEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF THE ARGENTINE REGIME PUBLIC OPINION

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HERE IS RIGHTLY CONCERNED. IT CAN SURELY BE PUT TO THE ARGENTINES THAT IT IS VERY MUCH IN THEIR INTERESTS NOT (NOT) TO BE SEEN TO BE OBSTRUCTING THE WORK OF THIS PURELY HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION.

4. THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE ICRC HAVE NOT (NOT) BASED THEIR REQUEST ON THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION BECAUSE OF ARGENTINE SENSITIVITIES TO THE TERM QUOTE OCCUPATION UNQUOTE IN ARTICLE 2 BUT ARE ACTING UNDER THEIR GENERAL MANDATE TO MONITOR MATTERS OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.

PYM

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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