

TYPISTS

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ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/FUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

PS No.10 DOWNING ST.

PS/CHANCELLOR
SIR K COUZENS
MR LITTLER
MR HAWTIN
MR PERETZ
MR ILETT
MR McINTYRE

H.M.TSY

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
HD/DEF D
HD/NEWS D
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/HKGD

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN
DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SAPU CABINET OFFICE

RESIDENT CLERK

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IMMEDIATE

PP UKMIS NEW YORK

GRS 270

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 151647Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1288 OF 15 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, PARIS, BONN.

FALKLANDS

1. IN A TALK TODAY WITH EAGLEBURGER AT WHICH BURT AND HOLMES WERE PRESENT ON THE AMERICAN SIDE AND THE MINISTER WITH ME, THE AMERICANS SHOWED REAL CONCERN ABOUT THE DEVELOPING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE U.S. WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT A CONTINUATION OF THE CRISIS AND THE POSSIBLE RESORT TO FORCE BY US IN THE AREA WAS THEIR FEAR THAT THIS WOULD BE BOUND TO LEAD TO INCREASED SOVIET PARTICIPATION. I ASKED WHETHER BY THIS THEY MEANT INCREASED SOVIET MORAL, POLITICAL AND INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT AS DISTINCT FROM DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION, TO WHICH THE AMERICANS

ANSWERED THAT THEY WERE NOT AT ALL SURE THAT IT WOULD BE LIMITED IN THIS WAY. THEY IMPLIED THAT THEY FEARED THE SOVIETS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE INVOLVED IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES. I EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THIS, BUT NOT ABOUT THE SOVIET WISH TO SPREAD FEAR OF IT.

2. I DREW ATTENTION TO THE LONG-TERM DANGER TO U.S. AND FOR THAT MATTER WESTERN, INTERESTS GENERALLY IF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COULD BE USED BY THE SOVIETS. THIS WOULD POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO WESTERN SECURITY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. EAGLEBURGER SAID HE ENTIRELY AGREED.

3 THE LESSON TO BE DRAWN FROM THIS WAS THAT THE ARGENTINIANS MUST NOT BE ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH WHAT THEY HAD DONE. IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN THEIR PRESENT ENTERPRISE THE SOVIETS WOULD CERTAINLY CLAIM THAT THIS WAS PARTLY DUE TO SOVIET BACKING AND THEY WOULD WORK ON THIS TO ENHANCE THEIR INFLUENCE IN ARGENTINA AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC GENERALLY.

4. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING DOBRYNIN LATER TO-DAY TO READ HIM THE RIOT ACT ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT.

HENDERSON

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