

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mufaxed to Chequers
TYPISTS at 1035, 17/4
(82) 31

PS (6)
~~PS/MR HURD~~ PS/MR HURD
~~PS/MR ONSLOW~~
PS/PUS
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 SAFO CABINET OFFICE

DIO

[RESIDENT CLERK]

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

[D/BY 170700Z]

WONFO 018/17

CO FCO DESKBY 170700Z

GR 550

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 170700Z

FM WASHINGTON 170238Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1329 OF 16 APRIL

MY TELEGRAM NO 1323: FALKLANDS

ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR SATELLITE COVERAGE.

EAGLEBURGER TELEPHONED MINISTER THIS EVENING TO GIVE HIM THE LINE WHICH THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NOW WORKED OUT FOR DEALING WITH THE INTENSE PRESS INTEREST IN THIS STORY, FOLLOWING TONIGHT'S U.S. TELEVISION NEWS COVERAGE. EAGLEBURGER STRESSED THAT THIS WAS THE BEST THEY COULD DEVISE TO MINIMISE PUBLIC RELATIONS DAMAGE IN TERMS OF THE U.S. - ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

OF THE U.S./U.K. RELATIONSHIP.

2. THE MAIN QUESTIONS BEING ASKED FOCUS ON WHETHER ARGENTINA HAS ASKED FOR OR OBTAINED PHOTOGRAPHIC SATELLITE INTELLIGENCE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
3. ON THE RECORD THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL SAY NO, AND WILL OFFER NO COMMENT ON DEEP BACKGROUND, THEY WILL SAY THAT THIS STORY IS TOTALLY UNTRUE. IF PRESSED (WHICH THEY EXPECT TO BE) THEY WILL SAY THEY NOTE THAT BOTH ARGENTINA AND THE U.K. HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH NASA IN CIVIL SATELLITE PROGRAMMES, THAT THESE HAVE NO MILITARY INTELLIGENCE VALUE, AND THAT FURTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE PUT TO NASA.
4. NASA, IF APPROACHED, WILL
 - (A) GIVE FULL TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE LANDSAT PROGRAMME,
 - (B) CONFIRM THE REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA, AND EXPLAIN THAT IT IS IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NASA,
 - (C) CONFIRM THAT NASA IS MEETING THE ARGENTINIAN REQUEST.NASA WILL THEMSELVES ALSO EMPHASISE THE ABSENCE OF MILITARY VALUE IN THESE PROGRAMMES. (THEY ARE VERY SCARED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE FUTURE OF THESE PROGRAMMES WHICH WERE BUILT ON THE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WERE ENTIRELY BENIGN).
5. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT PUBLICATION OF ALL THIS MATERIAL WAS NO MORE THAN NORMAL PRACTICE. ALL NASA ARRANGEMENTS WITH SECOND PARTY SUBSCRIBERS (E.G. ARGENTINA) WERE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. THIS WAS NOT TRUE OF THIRD PARTY RELATIONSHIPS (E.G. U.K.) NASA WOULD NOT THEREFORE REVEAL THE U.K.'S RECENT REQUEST FOR LANDSAT COVERAGE OF THE ARGENTINIAN COASTLINE (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY HUNTING SURVEYS).
6. EAGLEBURGER ADDED FOR GOOD MEASURE THAT NASA HAD TOLD THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IN 10 YEARS OF TRYING THEY HAD VERY POOR RESULTS WITH THIS PROGRAMME OVER THE FALKLANDS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE ARGENTINIANS FOR THE MOMENT IN OCCUPATION OF THE ISLANDS AND FROM WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD OF THE LIKELY MOVEMENTS OF OUR SHIPS, THEIR PRESENT REQUEST WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH NO USEFUL INTELLIGENCE WHATEVER. THE NEXT PASS WOULD NOT BE FOR EIGHTEEN DAYS. EAGLEBURGER GAVE MINISTER A FIRM UNDERTAKING THAT NASA WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO ACCEDE TO A FUTURE ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR SIMILAR COVERAGE WITHOUT SPECIFIC CLEARANCE.
7. WE SUGGEST THAT WE ALSO STICK TO THE LINE IN PARAGRAPH 3 IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES HERE OR IN LONDON.

7. WE SUGGEST THAT WE ALSO STICK TO THE LINE IN PARAGRAPH 3 IN
RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES HERE OR IN LONDON.

PLEASE ADVANCE BY 170700Z TO FALKLANDS EMERGENCY UNIT AND NEWS
DEPARTMENT.

HENDERSON

NNNN