

SECRET

FLASH

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 GRS
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 6 FM FCO 180930Z APRIL 82
 7 TO FLASH WASHINGTON
 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

ms
h.a. M. 4/12

9 FALKLANDS: CORRESPONDENCE WITH HAIG
 10 1. I have this morning received the following further message
 11 from Haig in Buenos Aires.
 12 Begins. Based on the unacceptable language which I received
 13 and sent to you last night (Friday), I threatened to break off
 14 this process. As a result, I was invited to meet with the junta,
 15 and spent two hours with them this morning (Saturday). The
 16 character of the group is essentially as I imagined: Galtieri
 17 is the least bright and given to bluster; the admiral is
 18 ultra hard-line; the air force general is bright. Politically
 19 reasonable - relatively speaking - but clearly third in influence.
 20 I impressed on these men in the strongest terms that British
 21 resolve was beyond doubt, and that they were on a collision course
 22 with military humiliation and economic ruin. With the possible
 23 exception of the Admiral - whose definition of glory has little
 24 to do with the concept of military success - I would say these
 25 men are worried. They are feeling the pressure of your fleet,

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File number	Dept Emergency Unit	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) C Mallaby		Falkland Islands No 10 Cabinet Office
Telephone number		Standard SAMD Emergency Unit
Authorised for despatch <i>ms</i>		Copy 10 PS/No 10.
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	PS/Hare Secretaries PS/Sols for Defence. PS/S in Robert Amos

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2 though it would be a serious mistake for you to assume they are
3 not prepared to fight.

4 The junta urged me to stay and try to "solve the problem"
5 with the Foreign Minister. In hopes that they would impart
6 flexibility to their negotiators I agreed to do so. The ten-
7 hour session that ensued was excruciatingly difficult. We spent
8 most of that time on the language dealing with the terms of
9 reference for the negotiations on the definitive status of the
10 islands. Your language was rejected out of hand. I pressed
11 upon them language that avoids prejudging the sovereignty issue
12 while preserving what you must have with regard to the rights
13 of the islanders. The Argentines are now developing a new
14 formulation but I expect it will be pregnant with the concept
15 of assured Argentine sovereignty.

16 The issue of travel, trade, etc, in the interim period was
17 also hotly contested. There will be no agreement unless it
18 involves a clear prospect of genuine promotion of various forms of
19 inter action, with the necessary safeguards to prevent what the
20 Prime Minister fears could occur.

21 We are also encountering difficulty on the question of inter-
22 im administration, though the integrity of the idea we discussed
23 in London has been maintained.

24 Finally, though we did not discuss it at length there was a
25 definite foreshadowing of serious problems on the question of
26 military disengagement - ie stopping the fleet and removing the
27 submarines. I think this matter can be settled in terms accept-
28 able to the UK. though not without more flexibility than I
29 encountered in London. All in all, as of now the situation is
30 grim. I will receive a new Argentine text during the night and
31 then decide whether or not to break off.

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32 I will only consider coming to London if the Argentines
33 give me a text that goes well beyond their position today. I
34 do not want to shift the spotlight on to you if it is clear that

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Classification and Remarks

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2 the Argentine proposal is unacceptable. Even if I do not come
3 to London, I will of course send you the Argentine text.

4 If I suspend my mission tomorrow morning I will leave no
5 doubt where lies responsibility for the impasse. Ends.

6 2. Please deliver immediately the following reply from me.
7 Begins. Thank you very much for your message this morning about
8 your talks in Buenos Aires. You are clearly making super-human
9 efforts to achieve a reasonable result. We in London are most
10 grateful. Success would be a tremendous achievement and we very
11 much hope that you can bring the Argentines to see reason.

12 If, most regrettably, you were to conclude that you could
13 not continue your mission for the time being, we should need a
14 little time to consider what to do next. If you announced a
15 decision to suspend your efforts before we had decided with you
16 on next steps, the diplomatic initiative might pass to others.
17 We should therefore be most grateful to know your intentions in
18 good time before any announcement. One way of holding the
19 position might be for you to say on leaving Buenos Aires that
20 the Argentines had not tried seriously to negotiate a reasonable
21 outcome and that you would be reporting on the situation to the
22 President and discussing further steps with him. Ends.

23 3. Text in para 2 also passed to US Embassy.

24 PYM

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