

THEFT TO TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASY 191015Z APR 82

*MT*

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 272 OF 19 APRIL

INFO PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG, MODUK (NAVY)

MY TELNO 258 : FALKLANDS

1. THE PRIME MINISTER, PW BOTHA, SPOKE TWICE OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT THE FALKLANDS. ON THE EVENING OF 16 APRIL AT SEDGEFIELD HE RESTATED SOUTH AFRICA'S NEUTRAL POSITION IN THE DISPUTE (QUOTE IN VIEW OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES UNQUOTE). HE WENT ON TO REGISTER CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT (QUOTE RUSSIA IS NOT ONLY WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES BUT IS ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED UNQUOTE). HE SAID THAT THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF A WAR BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA WERE OF A SERIOUSNESS WHICH COULD NOT AT PRESENT EVEN BE GUESSED AT.

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2. ON 17 APRIL AT OUTSHOORN P W BOTHA SAID THAT IF THE CRISIS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA DETERIORATED THERE COULD BE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. HE USED THIS AS A LEAD-IN TO HIS MAIN THEME OF THE SOVIET UNION'S WORLD WIDE AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. P W BOTHA MAY HAVE BEEN REACTING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION ARE SUPPLYING INTELLIGENCE TO THE ARGENTINIANS AND TRYING TO JAM ROYAL NAVY COMMUNICATIONS. THE SOUTH AFRICANS MAY ALSO OF COURSE HAVE INFORMATION OF THEIR OWN ABOUT THIS. P W BOTHA'S <sup>RECOGNITION OF THE FACTOR OF SOVIET</sup> INVOLVEMENT IS LIKELY TO ALIENATE HIM SOMEWHAT FROM THE ARGENTINIANS, THOUGH THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE CAN NOW EXPECT HIM TO COME OUT IN OUR SUPPORT.

4. THE (JOHANNESBURG) SUNDAY TIMES, IN A FURTHER ARTICLE YESTERDAY, 18 APRIL, QUOTED THE ARGENTINIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AS SAYING THAT THERE WERE CONFIDENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ARGENTINA FOR EXCHANGES OF NAVAL OFFICERS AND OF TRAINING. (THIS CONFIRMS THE SURMISE IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF MY TUR). THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ALSO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND ARGENTINIAN NAVIES ON RESEARCH IN ANTARCTICA. THE SOUTH AFRICANS DEFENCE FORCE HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DISCLOSURES, BUT INFORMED (AND OBVIOUSLY OFFICIAL) SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS CONFIRMING THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE BEEN TRAINING ARGENTINIAN OFFICERS QUOTE IN INTELLIGENCE WORK, AND AS NAVAL AND ARMY COMMANDOS... IN VIEW OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' COMMON PROBLEMS IN COMBATTING INSURGENCY AND TERRORISM.... AND IN DEFENDING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC UNQUOTE.

FCO PSE PASS JOHANNESBURG AND MODUK (NAVY)

PASSED BY C.O.D.]

REID