

RESTRICTED

FM MADRID 211110Z APR 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 213 OF 21 APRIL

AMD TO PRIORITY MOD (D13 WEST)

INFO GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL), UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELS NOS 206 AND 209 : SPAIN AND ARGENTINA

1. THE EXTREME RIGHT WING FALANGIST (FRANCOIST) ORGANISATION STAGED A STREET MARCH IN MADRID DURING THE EVENING OF 19 APRIL TO EXPRESS SPANISH SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA OVER THE FALKLANDS. DEMONSTRATORS SET FIRE TO TWO UNION JACKS AND CALLED FOR SPANISH RECOVERY OF GIBRALTAR. OTHER SLOGANS ATTACKED THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND MONARCHY, AND CALLED ON THE LEADING PLOTTERS NOW ON TRIAL FOR LAST YEAR'S ATTEMPTED COUP TO SAVE SPANISH HONOUR. MILITARY MEANS SHOULD BE USED TO RECAPTURE GIBRALTAR. BETWEEN 5,000 -10,000 TURNED OUT (THE ORGANISERS CLAIMED 100,000), A BIG CROWD FOR A POLITICALLY MARGINAL ORGANISATION TO MARSHALL. MANY LOOKED RESPECTABLE AND WELL-DRESSED.

2. THE BRITISH COUNCIL PREMISES HERE (AS WELL AS THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN BARCELONA) HAD BEEN DAUBED WITH PRO-ARGENTINA SLOGANS IN ADVANCE OF THE DEMONSTRATION. AFTER THE MAIN DEMONSTRATION, SMALL GROUPS PASSED BY THE EMBASSY AND THE COUNCIL. BUT THE POLICE PROVIDED AMPLE PROTECTION AND PREVENTED THEM FROM LOITERING OR REMAINING IN THE VICINITY. FOR THIS I HAVE THANKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER (SECOND TUR), WHO MADE CLEAR HIS ATTITUDE.

3. THE FALANGE ARE A TINY IF VOCAL MINORITY. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA AND LINKAGE OF THE FALKLANDS WITH GIBRALTAR WILL HAVE STRUCK A CHORD WITH MANY SPANIARDS OF LESS EXTREME VIEWS. FOR SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION THE ARGENTINE USE OF FORCE OVER THE FALKLANDS IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE COLONIAL MOTIVE, AND SYMPATHY WITH THEIR KITH AND KIN IS STRONG. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY UNDER PRESSURE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THESE STRONG AND VOCAL FEELINGS, WHICH MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE BOUND TO INFLAME.

4. MOD PLEASE CONNECT WITH YOUR 201415Z TO DA.

PARSONS

FCO

SED

CABINET OFFICE

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ADVANCED

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