

Caroline Stevens:

22.IV.82

Lord Thomas thinks
that this should
be brought to the
attention of Mr. John Cdees,
not merit the time of the
Prime Minister
herself.



A.F.C. $\frac{24}{4}$

h.a.

WITH COMPLIMENTS

LORD THOMAS OF SWYNNERTON

A copy has been sent to Mr Williams
(our Ambassador to Buenos Aires) at the
F.CO.

22nd April 1982

Conversation with Mr Enrique Pinedo

Mr Pinedo came to see me last night at my house at 10 pm. He came on the suggestion of a mutual friend, Mr Julio Nuñez. Mr Pinedo explained that he had come to England at his own expense and purely to try to do good in a useful manner. Naturally he had responded to requests to put the Argentinian case when asked by the BBC etc but he was in no sense an official visitor. He was, however, a great friend of Dr Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and he confirmed that he would probably be seeing him in New York at the end of this week.

Senor Pinedo is an Argentinian of the old school, a lawyer and rancher. At the same time, his father was several times Minister of the Economy. He expressed admiration for England and was plainly seriously distressed at the prospect of war between our two countries. He talked a good deal, much of it not to the point. I did, however, have the following clear impressions:

1. He did not think that anyone in Argentina cares about the fate of South Georgia and the dependencies;
2. He fully accepted that the act of invasion was an act of folly and, at the least, the equivalent, in social terms, of an unprovoked slap in the face to an old friend;
3. He spoke slightly of the intellectual level of the military junta and their naval and air force colleagues;

He seemed to me to be agitated.

I told him as firmly as I could that my impression was that Britain was most willing to negotiate almost anything once control had been re-established - itself surely a concession following the grave breach which he, Mr Pinedo, had already accepted to be so; but that before that control was re-established, nothing really could be done. I said also that my impression was that all parties were in support of the Government over this. The degree of unity had been one of the most striking aspects of the crisis.

Hugh Thomas

LORD THOMAS