

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

PS
~~PS/MR HVED~~
 PS/MR ONSLOW
~~PS/MR BERNARD~~
 PS/PUS
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ADAMS
 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
 HD/DEF D
 HD/NEWS D
 HD/UND
 HD/PLANNING STAFF
~~HD/INCO~~

RESIDENT CLERK

PS No.10 DOWNING ST. -

PS/CHANCELLOR
 SIR K COUZENS
 MR LITTLER
 MR HAWTIN
 MR PERETZ
 MR ILETT
 MR McINTYRE

} H.M.TSY

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE
 MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
 MR FULLER SAPU/ CABINET OFFICE
 SIR M. PALLISER, CABINET OFFICE

SIR R ARMSTRONG, DIO. CAB. OFFICE

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

PP MONTEVIDEO

GRS 360

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM SANTIAGO 222150Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 150 OF 22 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, MEXICO CITY, BRASILIA, NASSAU, BRIDGETOWN, BOGOTA, SAN JOSE, QUITO, KINGSTON, SANTO DOMINGO, TEGUCIGALPA, PANAMA CITY, ASUNCION, LIMA, PORT OF SPAIN AND MONTEVIDEO

UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 511 TO F C O (NOT TO ALL) AND WASHINGTON TELNO 1397 TO F C O : OAS/FALKLANDS : CHILEAN POSITION

1. DESPITE ROBUST STANCE TAKEN BY CHILEAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK (UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 511), ECHOED INCIDENTALLY IN EL MERCURIO'S LEADING EDITORIAL TODAY, CONTACTS WITH MFA HERE AT VARIOUS LEVELS REVEAL A DISTINCT WEAKENING OF CHILEAN RESOLVE, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF ARGENTINE LOBBYING. PHRASES SUCH AS QUOTE NEED TO AVOID GIVING UNNECESSARY OFFENCE TO POWERFUL NEIGHBOURS UNQUOTE DO NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE. LINE CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN BY MFA OFFICIALS CONCERNED IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED IN MEXICO CITY'S TELNO 229 TO F C O : IN THEIR VIEW,

BEING TAKEN BY MFA OFFICIALS CONCERNED IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED IN MEXICO CITY'S TELNO 229 TO F C O : IN THEIR VIEW, ALL WILL DEPEND ON THE TONE AND NATURE OF ANY ARGENTINE RESOLUTION TABLED AT THE OAS MEETING ON 26 APRIL. MFA HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER MINISTER WILL ATTEND (THEY HAVE NONE AT PRESENT AS PRESIDENT WILL ONLY BE SWEARING IN NEW CABINET AT 1800 LOCAL TIME TODAY) BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW OTHER MEMBER STATES' LEAD.

2. IF NO ARMED CLASH HAS TAKEN PLACE BY 26 APRIL, MFA SAY CHILE WOULD PROBABLY RESIST ANY ARGENTINE ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS OF ANY KIND. MFA WERE STUDIOUSLY VAGUE HOWEVER ON WHAT THEIR ATTITUDE MIGHT BE IF REFERENCE WERE MADE IN A RESOLUTION TO THE VALIDITY OF ARGENTINA'S CLAIMS ON THE FALKLANDS. THEY WOULD MUCH PREFER NOT TO HAVE TO PRONOUNCE ON THIS, BUT I EXPECT THEY WILL PROBABLY AGAIN FALL INTO LINE WITH THE REST RATHER THAN RISK BEING LEFT AS ODD MAN OUT.

3. IF HOSTILITIES WERE TO HAVE BROKEN OUT BY THEN, MFA FORESEE GREAT DIFFICULTY FOR CHILE IN RESISTING IMPOSITION OF SOME SORT OF SANCTIONS, BUT HAVE HINTED BROADLY THAT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED HERE.

4. IN ALL THIS MFA IS IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF BEING CAUGHT BETWEEN STRONGLY PRO-BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE NEED TO AVOID CONTINENTAL ISOLATION ON THE OTHER, ESPECIALLY AS THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO KEEP OPEN POSSIBILITY OF INVOKING THE RIO TREATY THEMSELVES IN THE EVENT OF AN ARGENTINE ATTACK LATER ON (MY TELEGRAM NO 140, NOT TO ALL). I GATHER CHILE TOOK FIRST STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION AT TIME OF LAST CHILEAN/ARGENTINE CRISIS IN 1978.

5. F C O PLEASE PASS.

HEATH

NNNN

SENT AT/RECD AT 222158Z AMT/CS