

WONFO 018/24

MEXWASH 015/23

24 APR 1982

00 FCO - DESKBY 240830Z

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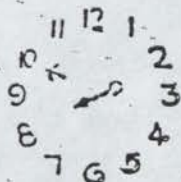
CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 240830Z

FROM MEXICO CITY 232315Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 316 OF 23 APRIL 82



(22)

E.R.

MY TELNO 310: FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. ROWLAND (LONRHO) SPOKE BY TELEPHONE THIS AFTERNOON TO MY MINISTER/COUNSELLOR. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SENT HIS PRIVATE JET TO MEXICO TO BRING HIS FRIEND GOVERNOR ROSSELL DE LA LAMA TO LONDON FOR A PRIVATE VISIT DURING WHICH ROSSELL HAD INTENDED TO DELIVER A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER OUR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE VISIT THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD LED ROSSELL TO POSTPONE HIS JOURNEY.
2. HE HAD JUST SPOKEN ON THE TELEPHONE TO ROSSELL WHO HAD SEEN THE PRESIDENT TODAY. ROSSELL WOULD NOW TRAVEL TO LONDON ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT TAKING A PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. AS SOON AS ROSSELL HAD SPOKEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER HE WAS TO CONTACT THE PRESIDENT BY TELEPHONE. ROWLAND SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO SAW SOME SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS, PROBABLY FOLLOWING A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GALTIERI, AND WISHED TO HAVE IT BROUGHT URGENTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENTION.
3. ROWLAND ASKED MORRIS TO CONFIRM TO YOU IMMEDIATELY THAT THE VISIT WAS NOW OFFICIAL. BUT HE ASKED THAT WE SHOULD NOT CONTACT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAIN AS THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED AND IT WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE MATTERS. THE PRESIDENCY COULD OF COURSE CONFIRM ROSSELL'S ROLE.
4. ROWLAND SAID THAT HIS JET WAS IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA AND WOULD BE TAKING OFF FOR MEXICO CITY WITHIN HALF AN HOUR (232300Z) TO PICK UP ROSSELL AND FLY HIM TO LONDON.
5. MINISTER/COUNSELLOR SPOKE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY WHO SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A VISIT.
6. CASILLAS IS VERY CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT AND IT SEEMS



IMPROBABLE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD SEND ROSSELL AS AN OFFICIAL  
MISSARY TO LONDON WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY  
OR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ROSSELL, WHO IS  
A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE MENTIONED TO THE  
PRESIDENT THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT LONDON AND HAVE OFFERED TO  
CONVEY AN INFORMAL MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE PRESIDENT  
MAY HAVE AGREED TO THIS.

TCKELL

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