

[Passed E.M.U.]  
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1441 OF 24 APRIL

MY TELEGRAM NO 1428: FALKLANDS:

ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR SATELLITE COVERAGE OF S. GEORGIA,

TRIPSTS

HD/SAMD

HD/DefD

HD/PUSD

PS (w)

PS/PUS

Mr Griffith

Mr Waight

Mr Ure

Mr Gillmore

DIO Cab. Office

Sir M. Palliser

Mr Wade Gery

NO 10 D.S.

RC

XX  
COLL 6

EAGLEBURGER TELEPHONED MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT YOU HAD SAID YESTERDAY TO HAIG, A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN NOT TO PROVIDE THE FIRST TWO DAYS SATELLITE COVERAGE OF S. GEORGIA REQUESTED BY ARGENTINA. SEPARATE DECISIONS WOULD BE NEEDED FOR EACH OF THE SUCCEEDING DAYS. SO FAR, THE EXPLANATION WAS QUOTE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS UNQUOTE.

2. THOMAS SAID THAT HE KNEW YOU WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THIS.

3. EAGLEBURGER MADE TWO FURTHER POINTS. FIRST, IT WAS VITAL THAT THIS SHOULD NOT LEAK. SECOND, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE LONGER THE QUOTE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS UNQUOTE CONTINUED THE MORE CLEAR IT WOULD BECOME TO THE ARGENTINIANS WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THE SECOND TWO DAYS COVERAGE WOULD BE OF THE OPEN SEA TO THE WEST OF S. GEORGIA. IT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO HIM IN TAKING THE FURTHER DECISIONS NEEDED FOR 26 AND 27 APRIL TO KNOW WHETHER OUR OWN EXPERTS SERIOUSLY BELIEVED THAT THIS COULD BE OF SOME MILITARY VALUE TO THE ARGENTINIANS.

HENDERSON