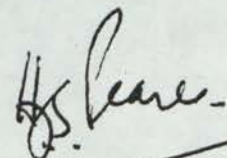


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Mr Emsley

Lt Cdr Alfredo Astiz

1. I spoke to Mr Darwin (Legal Advisers) in the light of the call by Mr Nilsson of the Swedish Embassy on 2 May. He advised that the most we could do within the law to meet the Swedish request would be to inform Lt Cdr Astiz of the Swedes' wish to speak to him and ask him whether he would be willing to meet a Swedish representative. He suggested that a telegram might be sent to the Commander of the Antrim, the ship on which Astiz is being held and which left South Georgia for Ascension today. I attach a draft which will need to be cleared inter alia by Legal Advisers.
2. Meanwhile, I have discussed possible ways of getting a Swedish representative to Ascension with the MOD. They confirm that there are no regular commercial flights to Ascension and suggest that the Swedish representative might reach Ascension most easily by flying commercially to Dakar. The RAF would be able to fly him on from there, but they would need three days' notice. I have not yet passed this on to Mr Nillson, and I suggest you delay doing so until we have decided whether to send the telegram. In these circumstances Mr Nillson might be informed of both points. We would need to tell him that there would be no point in the Swedes sending anybody to Ascension until we had heard from Astiz that he was prepared to talk to a Swedish representative.
3. On Mr Nillson's other question, about designation by Argentina of a Protecting Power, we have as yet heard no more.
4. There is one further point which I failed to record in my earlier minute to Mr Collins about Astiz which I made to Mr Nillson. This is that when the Argentine prisoners of war arrive in Ascension they may well be flown out again almost immediately. This would mean that the Swedes would have very little time to talk to him, even if he were willing to see them. Mr Nillson took this point, but commented that the Swedes could learn what they wanted to know very quickly - an hour or two's conversation would be sufficient.



H J S Pearce
Emergency Unit

2 May, 1982

cc. Mr. Winton, Defence Dept.
Mr. Kearn, Staff.
Mr. Huber, Def. Dept.
Mr. Gladstone, WED.
Mr. Aust, Legal Advisers,
News Dept.

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File No.
Department EMERGENCY UNIT
Drafted by
(Block Capitals) H. J. S. PEARCE.
Tel. Extn.

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XY 42

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification CONFIDENTIAL
Precedence IMMEDIATE
DESKBYZ

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched (Date)
(Time)Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin)Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)
(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL (Caveat/
Privacy marking)
(Codeword) (Deskby)Z

TO IMMEDIATE - HMS ANTRIM (precedence) (post) Tel. No.of.....

AND TO (precedence/post).....

AND TO SAVING.....

INFO.....

INFO SAVING.....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

Lt Col Alfredo Astiz

1. You should know that the Swedish Government have asked whether they could have the opportunity to speak to Astiz in connection with an incident involving Miss Dagmar Hagelin in Buenos Aires in 1977. Miss Hagelin is reported to have been shot at by Argentine Navy personnel and then driven to the Navy ~~Medical~~ ^{Neurological} School. In 1979 a witness ~~in Madrid~~ claimed to have been in the same prison as Miss Hagelin and it is likely that she had been wounded in the leg and ~~murdered~~ ^{tortured. It has been established}. The witness names ~~Alfredo Astiz~~ ^{was} ~~as involved in the~~ ^{original} incident. Swedish representations to the Argentine Government have so far met no response. Swedes would therefore like to send a

Copies to:-

by and personally
don't that

and subsequently
talked to Miss
Hagelin during her
imprisonment.

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/representative

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representative to Ascension Island to speak to Astiz on his arrival with the aim of gaining information about Miss Hagelin's fate.

2. While we sympathise with the Swedish request our primary objective must be to comply with the Geneva Conventions. These rule out for example the extradition of Astiz to Sweden, but this has not in any case been requested.

3. We should be grateful if you could inform Astiz of the Swedish wish to send a representative to interview him about Miss Hagelin's fate. You should ask him whether he has any comments on this matter and whether he is willing to see a Swedish representative. You should not put pressure on him to answer affirmatively.

4. Grateful for early reply, since we need to give the Swedes time to send somebody to Ascension in the event of Astiz' agreement to this request.

PYM

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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