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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM UKMIS GENEVA 071735Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 224 OF 7 MAY

INFO PRIORITY BERNE, ROUTINE MONTEVIDEO, WASHINGTON

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ICRC

1. WE HEARD UNOFFICIALLY LATE ON 6 MAY THAT THE ARGENTINE MISSION WERE SENDING A LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO ICRC. WE TELEPHONED THE ICRC TO ENQUIRE ABOUT IT ON 7 MAY AND ADAMS WAS INVITED TO CALL TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE NOTE, DELIVERED THAT MORNING. TEXT IS IN MIFT.
2. ON BEING HANDED THE TEXT, ADAMS WENT THROUGH IT WITH HOCKE OF THE ICRC AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS (REFERENCES ARE TO THE NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS OF THE NOTE).
3. ON 3 AND 4, ADAMS POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD GIVEN ICRC INFORMATION WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE CAPTURE OF THOSE CONCERNED. THIS CONTRASTED FAVOURABLY WITH ARGENTINE BEHAVIOUR OVER OUR PEOPLE WHOM THEY CAPTURED ON SOUTH GEORGIA ON 4 APRIL.
4. ON 5, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATH WAS STILL UNDER WAY. ON THE BURIAL HE CONSENTED THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION, AND UNDERTOOK TO MAKE ENQUIRIES. THE ICRC WERE SURPRISED AT THE REFERENCE IN THE ARGENTINE NOTE TO BURIAL HAVING TAKEN PLACE, A FACT OF WHICH THEY WERE UNAWARE.
5. ON 7, ADAMS COMMENTED THAT THOUGH THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS FORBODE THE RE-EMPLOYMENT IN MILITARY ACTION OF FREED PRISONERS OF WAR, THOSE CONCERNED HAD NOT (NOT) BEEN CONSIDERED AS POWS. WE HAD IN ANY CASE NO CONFIRMATION OF THE VERACITY OF THIS ASSERTION.
6. ON 8, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GENERAL BELGRANO THOUGH OUTSIDE THE TEZ WAS WITHIN THE SECURITY ZONE OF BRITISH SHIPS IN THE AREA, AND WAS FULLY ARMED AND ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS.

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7. ON 9, ADAMS AND THE ICRC AGREED THAT MORE
INFORMATION WOULD BE REQUIRED.

8. THE ICRC ACCEPTED THESE COMMENTS AND GAVE NO (NO)
SIGN THAT THEY EXPECTED US TO COMMENT FURTHER, UNLESS WE CHOSE
TO DO SO. THERE MAY BE MERIT IN SENDING IN OUR COMMENTS IN
WRITING. ALTERNATIVELY WE MIGHT IGNORE THE ARGENTINE COMMUNICATION,
TO WHICH THE ICRC WILL IN ANY CASE THEMSELVES BE REPLYING.
WE MIGHT, ON BALANCE, LEAVE IT TO THEM.

9. SEE MIFT.

MARSHALL

NNNN

THE MESSAGES TO BE SENT TO THE ICRC AND TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT
AS REFERENCED ARE TO BE SENT TO THE ICRC BY AIR MAIL TO THE
MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AT BRNOVA PRAGUE BY AIR MAIL TO THE
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BY AIR MAIL TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

REPLYING BY AIR MAIL TO THE ICRC

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND THE ICRC

BY AIR MAIL TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

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