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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM UKMIB 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 HOCHE 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 FORBADE 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

