

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

x36

TYPISTS 1B

PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR ONSLOW
 PS/PUS
 MR BULLARD
 SIR I SINCLAIR
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ADAMS
 LORD N G LENNOX
 LORD BRIDGES
 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE
 HD/PUSD
 HD/S AM D
 HD/DEF DEPT
 HD/NEWS DEPT
 HD/ERD
 HD/ECD(E)
 HD/UND
 HD/PLANNING STAFF
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
~~EMERGENCY ROOM~~
 RESIDENT CLERK
 H.A.S.A.D.

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST-(2)
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
 MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
 PS/CHANCELLOR)
 SIR K COUZENS) TREASURY
 MR LITTLER)
 SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 SIR M PALLISER) CABINET
 MR WADE-GERY) OFFICE
 MR FULLER SAPU/DIO)
 DIO)

made 14

ADVANCE COPY

DBY 120800Z

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

DESKBY 120800Z MAY 82
 FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 111720Z MAY 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 326 OF 11 MAY
 INFO PRETORIA, MODUK

MY TELEGRAM NO 301: FALKLAND ISLANDS - ARMS SALES

1. I WAS SUMMONED AT SHORT NOTICE TO SEE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
 DFAI AT 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME TODAY (11 MAY). VAN DALSEN REFERRED
 TO A REQUEST APPARENTLY MADE YESTERDAY BY ALLINSON TO THE SOUTH
 AFRICAN EMBASSY IN LONDON REGARDING APPROCHES ALLEGEDLY MADE
 TO SOUTH AFRICAN FIRMS (NIMRO AND ALBRECHT ?) FOR THE SUPPLY
 OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA. ALLINSON HAD ALSO REFERRED
 TO REPORTS ABOUT A URAGUAYAN PLANE LOADING MILITARY EQUIPMENT
 AT A SOUTH AFRICAN AIRPORT, PRESUMABLY JOHANNESBURG. (SEE
 ALSO MY TELEGRAM NO 323). THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD TODAY
 CONSIDERED THIS APPROACH AND HE THEN HANDED ME THE " SPEAKING
 NOTES " IN MIFT. (HE CONFIRMED IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT
 THIS WAS ALSO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANSWER TO REID'S ACTION
 REPORTED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE).

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2. VAN DALSEN ADDED THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO TELL ME, AS I WAS NO DOUBT AWARE, THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD ALREADY RESPONDED FAVOURABLY TO A REQUEST FOR CERTAIN EQUIPMENT PUT TO THEM " THROUGH SERVICE CHANNELS ". VAN DALSEN WENT ON TO SAY, IN ANSWER TO A FURTHER QUESTION PUT TO THE EMBASSY IN LONDON BY ALLINSON, THAT WHATEVER THE TERMS OF THE SPEAKING NOTES HE COULD GIVE US A CONFIDENTIAL ASSURANCE THAT EXOCET HAD NOT BEEN SUPPLIED TO ARGENTINA (AND BY IMPLICATION WOULD NOT BE). VAN DALSEN SAID THAT A REPLY ON THESE LINES WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE FCO THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY.

3. I TOLD VAN DALSEN THAT I FEARED THAT THE REACTION TO THE COMMUNICATION CONTAINED IN HIS SPEAKING NOTE WOULD BE TO REINFORCE IMPRESSIONS IN LONDON THAT, WHATEVER THEIR PUBLIC POSITION OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE INDEED SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA. VAN DALSEN COMMENTED THAT OUR APPROACH HAD TOUCHED THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON A RAW NERVE. SPEAKING FRANKLY THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE, IMPORTANT AS IT WAS TO HMG, DID NOT TOUCH THE FUNDAMENTAL SECURITY OF THE UK. THE UN ARMS EMBARGO IN WHICH THE UK FULLY PARTICIPATED THREATENED SOUTH AFRICA'S EXISTENCE. THE TERMS OF OUR REQUEST HAD PROVOKED A WARM REACTION. (IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE EMBASSY'S REPORT WOULD HAVE REACHED CAPE TOWN IN TIME FOR DISCUSSION AT THIS MORNING'S REGULAR CABINET MEETING AND THAT THE TERMS OF THE SPEAKING NOTES REFLECTED THAT DISCUSSION). THE MAJOR PRINCIPLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA WAS THAT THEY WERE AGAINST BOYCOTTS OF ANY KIND, EITHER INWARD OR OUTWARD, AND THAT WAS THE SENSE IN WHICH THEIR RESPONSE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED. I REPEATED THE DISAPPOINTMENT WHICH I KNEW YOU WOULD FEEL. YOU WILL NO DOUBT CONSIDER WHETHER YOU WISH TO REPLY TO THE QUESTION IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE SPEAKING NOTES.

FERGUSSON

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