

via  
En. Room Room 8,  
12 MAY 1992

RESTRICTED

FM BERNE 121320Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 117 OF 12 MAY

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MY TELEGRAM NO 105 AND TELECOM BROOK/FEU ON 11 MAY.

JOURNALISTS

1. THE SWISS FDFA HAVE TODAY PROVIDED WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY TELEPHONE ON 11 MAY ABOUT THE VISIT OF THE SWISS EMBASSY OFFICIAL, BALLMER, TO MATHER, PRIME AND WINCHESTER IN USHUAIA. OUR TRANSLATION FROM THE GERMAN IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINS

THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION OF THE PRISONERS IS GOOD. HERR BALLMER THOUGHT THE JOURNALIST IAN MATHER SEEMED A LITTLE SENSITIVE. (QUOTE ETWAS SENSIBEL UNQUOTE).

THE PRISON ACCOMMODATION IS APPROPRIATE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CELL IN WHICH THE THREE, BY THEIR OWN WISH, LIVE TOGETHER IS APPROX 2.4 METRES SQUARE. THE CELL DOOR IS ALWAYS LEFT OPEN. BALLMER BOUGHT TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT FOR THEM TO PASS THE TIME. THE SANITARY PROVISIONS ARE SATISFACTORY ALTHOUGH NOT ALWAYS CLEAN.

IN RESPECT OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, BALLMER ARRANGED FOR THE THREE TO HAVE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR WIVES FROM LONDON EACH TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SUNDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 2000 AND 2102 LOCAL TIME. THE QUOTE SELF-IMPOSED TIME LIMIT UNQUOTE FOR CALLS : APPROX 16 MINUTES.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE GOOD. BALLMER BOUGHT VITAMIN TABLETS FOR THEM. FOOD IS SIMPLE BUT ADEQUATE.

BALLMER WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITIES AND REACHED ~~USHUAIA~~ <sup>UNDERSTANDING</sup> WITH THEM.

AS FAR AS THE COURSE OF THE TRIAL IS CONCERNED, THE SENTENCE IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL 4 MONTHS' TIME. THE JUDGE HOWEVER IS PREPARED

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WITH THEM.

AS FAR AS THE COURSE OF THE TRIAL IS CONCERNED, THE SENTENCE IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL 4 MONTHS' TIME. THE JUDGE HOWEVER IS PREPARED TO EXAMINE FAVOURABLY THE QUESTION OF RELEASE ON BAIL IF GENERAL RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD IMPROVE.

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2. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE FROM THE INFORMATION GIVEN ORALLY IS THAT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH WIVES ARE PERMITTED THREE TIMES WEEKLY AND NOT DAILY.

3. THE FDFA SAY A MORE DETAILED REPORT WILL FOLLOW. THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF NO INFORMATION IS GIVEN TO THE PRESS UNTIL THIS IS AVAILABLE.

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SENT AT PECD AT 121404Z TWPM/