

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL 42 +7 *Seen by pm* ^{74 PIST}

(6)
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
HD of SED.

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2) ✓
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
SIR M PALLISER) CABINET
MR WADE-GERY) OFFICE
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO)
DIO)
ARM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

GRS 230
CONFIDENTIAL
FM MADRID 141702Z MAY 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 274 OF 14 MAY
INFO MOD DI3(WEST) WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR
(PERSONAL)

YOUR TELNO 155: FALKLANDS: SPANISH POSITION

I TOOK ACTION WITH CUENCA TODAY, ACCOMPANIED BY MAUD. I LEFT CUENCA IN NO DOUBT THAT ANY FURTHER STORIES OF SPANISH REPRESENTATIONS TO US ABOUT THE USE OF GIBRALTAR WOULD BE UNHELPFUL FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS. I ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT SPAIN'S FAILURE TO HIGHLIGHT THE ARGENTINE FIRST USE OF FORCE HAD NOT GONE DOWN WELL.

2. CUENCA ASSURED ME THAT THESE POINTS WERE FULLY TAKEN. DESPITE PRESSURE OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR A MORE CLEAR-CUT PRO-ARGENTINE STANCE HIS MINISTER WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY THE ISSUE CAUTIOUSLY AND AVOID MAKING ANY CONNECTION WITH GIBRALTAR, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT AND OUR IMPENDING NEGOTIATIONS. CUENCA ADDED THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH US IN HOLDING

CUENCA ADDED THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH US IN HOLDING TO 25 JUNE AS THE NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD EVERY INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATING ITS CONFIDENCE IN PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS AS THE MEANS OF RESOLVING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. ANY FURTHER POSTPONEMENT WOULD LAY THE GOVERNMENT OPEN TO RIGHT-WING CRITICS ADVOCATING THE ARGENTINE METHOD.

3. AS AN EXAMPLE OF SPANISH SENSITIVITY CUENCA MENTIONED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ON 13 MAY A REQUEST FOR A BRITISH CIVIL OVER-FLIGHT CARRYING 23 TONS OF LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT TO ASCENSION ISLAND. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD RAISED NO DIFFICULTY ABOUT THIS. BUT HAD THE PRESS GOT HOLD OF IT, THEY COULD HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE PLAY WITH WHAT THE PLANE MIGHT ACTUALLY CONTAIN.

4. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF WE COULD AVOID THE USE OF SPANISH AIRSPACE FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPLIES IN RELATION TO THE TASK FORCE'S OPERATIONS, EVEN OF A CIVILIAN NATURE. THE SPANIARDS ARE HAVING TO TREAD A NARROW COURSE. BUT THEY CLEARLY DO NOT WISH TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES FOR US.

5. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT ALSO ON YOUR TELNO 150 (NOT TO ALL).

PARSONS

[Passed TO ER]

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 14/1722Z PJ/TB

BB WOD DIRECT

bb ECO

WYDLO STCTP