

CAB/SAH 032/15

ZZ EDINBURGH

FOR PM'S PARTY

GRS 500

S E C R E T

FM PARIS 141750Z MAY 82

TO F L A S H F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 502 OF 14 MAY 1982

YOUR TELNO 256 : ARMS SALES

1. I CALLED ON DORIN, DIRECTOR AT THE QUAI FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS, ON 13 MAY AND MADE A FORMAL DEMARCHE ON THE LINES OF YOUR TELNO 241. I ASKED FOR FRANCE'S SPECIFIC COOPERATION ON A NUMBER OF CASES, STARTING WITH THE 4 EXOCET MISSILES FOR PERU.

2. I SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN GRATEFUL FOR GUTMANN'S REPLY THAT THE SHIPMENT OF FOUR AM39S WHICH HAD BEEN DUE TO LEAVE CHATEAUROUX BY AIR SOME TIME LAST WEEKEND HAD BEEN STOPPED (MY TELNO 456). THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN CONFIRMED TO OUR DEFENCE AND NAVAL ATTACHES BY THE DAI ON 12 MAY. WE HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT BLANC OF THE DAI HAD GIVEN A CLEAR HINT THAT THE CONSIGNMENT MIGHT NEVERTHELESS BE SENT BY SEA, IN THE APPARENT BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD TAKE A MONTH TO GET THERE AND THAT BY THAT TIME THE NEED FOR THE EMBARGO ON ARGENTINA WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED. I SAID I COULD NOT EMPHASISE TOO STRONGLY WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION IT WOULD CREATE IN THE HIGHEST CIRCLES IN LONDON IF SUCH A SHIPMENT NOW WERE TO TAKE PLACE. IT WOULD APPEAR TO CONTRADICT THE WHOLE TENOR OF FRENCH POLICY IN SUPPORT OF BRITAIN. I ASKED FOR EARLY REASSURANCE ON THIS POINT. DORIN LOOKED SURPRISED AND SLIGHTLY WORRIED AND SAID THAT HE WOULD CHECK THIS CASE IMMEDIATELY.

3. THE DEFENCE ATTACHE SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM A BRITISH CONTACT WORKING WITH SNIAS THAT THE AM39S WERE APPARENTLY ABOUT TO BE LOADED ON TO A FRENCH SHIP IN LE HAVRE BUT THAT BUREAUCRATIC FORMALITIES WERE HOLDING IT UP. WE PASSED THIS INFORMATION TO THE QUAI TODAY. THE HEAD OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN DEPT (FOUQUET) TELEPHONED BACK THIS

EVENING TO FIRST SECRETARY TO SAY THE QUAI ENQUIRIES REVEALED THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS INDEED TO TRAVEL BY SEA. FOUQUET SEEMED TO THINK THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE UK AND ADDED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THE SHIP WOULD BE CALLING AT PIRAEUS.

4. I HAVE ASKED TO SEE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL URGENTLY. I RECOMMEND (AS ALREADY SUGGESTED BY TELEPHONE TO PRIVATE OFFICE) THAT THE MATTER BE RAISED WITH CHEYSSON IN LONDON TONIGHT.

5. SINCE WRITING THE ABOVE I HAVE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MEMBER OF CHEYSSON'S CABINET (LIONNET). REFERRING TO MY REQUEST TO SEE THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND TO MY DEMARCHE YESTERDAY LIONNET SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE ME THAT :

- (A) THE FRENCH GOVT. TOOK OUR REQUEST VERY SERIOUSLY;
- (B) THEY WERE URGENTLY EXAMINING FURTHER THE QUESTION OF THE 4 EXOCETS FOR PERU ;
- (C) NO DELIVERY EVEN TO A THIRD PARTY WAS PROGRAMMED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. PRESSED TO SAY WHAT HE MEANT BY A " DELIVERY" LIONNET AGREED THAT EXPEDITION FROM FRANCE WOULD CONSTITUTE DELIVERY. FURTHER PRESSED ON WHAT HE MEANT BY THE " IMMEDIATE FUTURE" LIONNET SAID NO REPEAT NO DELIVERY WOULD BE MADE OVER THIS WEEKEND.

6. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THIS VERY LIMITED REASSURANCE, ?75 BUT I EXPECTED THAT I SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN IN THE LIGHT OF WHATEVER MIGHT PASS BETWEEN YOURSELF AND M. CHEYSSON IN LONDON.

PETRIE

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