

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

Argentina [TYPISTS
a.a.]

PS (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/SED

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2) *referred to*
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE *check 10/5*
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)

~~[RM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET]~~

[Passed to E.R.]

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MADRID 151325Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 275 OF 15 MAY

AND INFO PRIORITY MOD (DS12) AND GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 274 : FALKLANDS AND GIBRALTAR

1. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING FOR A LONG TALK. I AM NOT TELEGRAPHING A FULL ACCOUNT BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON COMMUNICATIONS. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO SIGNAL THAT WHATEVER IMPERFECTIONS WE MIGHT FIND IN THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT PUBLIC POSITION MUST BE SET AGAINST STRONG PRESSURES, WHICH HE HAD PERSONALLY RESISTED, FOR SPAIN TO COME DOWN ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE. (HIS LACK OF REFERENCE TO HIS PRESENT PRIME MINISTER COULD BE SIGNIFICANT). THESE PRESSURES EXISTED EVEN WITHIN THE GOVERNING PARTY ITSELF, PARTICULARLY FROM SUAREZ. I NATURALLY EMPHASISED STRINGLY OUR OWN POSITION, INCLUDING THE GREAT DANGER OF ALLOWING THE QUESTION OF GIBRALTAR TO BECOME ENTANGLED IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. PEREZ LLORCA READILY AGREED WITH THIS LAST POINT. HE EMPHASISED HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN OPEN THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH US. HE WANTED TO SEE YOU SOON. I

HE EMPHASISED HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN OPEN THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH US. HE WANTED TO SEE YOU SOON. I SHOULD GO TO HIM DIRECT ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

2. OTHER POINTS MADE BY THE MINISTER WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED YESTERDAY AT CABINET LEVEL TO DENY ARMS NOT ONLY TO ARGENTINA BUT ALSO TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS PERU, PANAMA AND VENEZUELA WHICH MIGHT FORWARD EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA:

B) THE CABINET HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON BRITISH TOURISM WHICH WAS SO IMPORTANT FOR SPAIN. AT PRESENT THEY THOUGHT THERE WAS NO PROBLEM. BUT WE SHOULD GO STRAIGHT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT HIGH LEVEL IF WE LEARNED OF ANY HARRASSMENT:

C) PEREZ LLORCA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE BRITISH NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD CUP. I SAID WE HAD CONVEYED NO GOVERNMENTAL VIEW SO FAR TO OUR TEAMS:

D) HE CONTINUED TO PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT ON 25 JUNE, IN THE HOPE THAT BY THEN THE FALKLANDS SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED. THERE WOULD OF COURSE BE NEW POLITICAL PRESSURES ON BOTH SIDES. NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD START WITH YOU FROM THE SAME POINT WHERE HE HAD LEFT OFF WITH

YOUR PREDECESSOR. HE DID NOT DISSENT FROM MY PERSONAL COMMENT THAT BOTH MINISTERS MIGHT NOW HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER A SUBSTANTIVE JOINT STATEMENT AFTER SINTRA WAS STILL NEGOTIABLE, OR WHETHER THE AIM MIGHT NOW HAVE TO BE SOMETHING LESS AMBITIOUS (PARA 3 OF YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 149):

E) AS AN EARNEST OF GOODWILL, HE HAD INSTRUCTED THAT AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE TECHNICAL REQUEST FROM GIBRALTAR ABOUT IMPROVEMENT OF TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS.

3. I THINK THIS WAS A GENUINE ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN THE DIALOGUE WITH US AND THUS STRENGTHEN THE MINISTER'S OWN POSITION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. IT WILL ALSO ENABLE PEREZ LLORCA TO SAY PUBLICLY NEXT WEEK, IF THE NEED ARISES, THAT HE HAS AGAIN URGED MODERATION ON THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

FCO PASS INFO PRIORITY MOD (DS12) AND GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

PARSONS

NNNN

SENT AT 151450Z JML/RJ