

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (43)

PS (6)
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR GNSLOW
PS/PJS
MR BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/DEF DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/EOD (2)
HD/UD
HD/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
EMERGENCY ROOM ✓
RESIDENT CLERK

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR LETT) 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

IMMEDIATE

Miss Dickson, D/ENERGY

[Passed to E.R.]

No. MS

GRS 200

Mr. Ingram

RESTRICTED

A.S.C. 24/5

(FM BERNE 212015Z)

FM BRITISH INTEREST SECTION BUENOS AIRES
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 118 OF 21 MAY

REQUEST FOR TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER

1) DANIEL MENDOZA, WELLKNOWN TELEVISION INTERVIEWER FROM CHANNEL 13, THE MOST INDEPENDENT OF THE FOUR BUENOS AIRES TELEVISION NETWORKS, WHO RECENTLY INTERVIEWED SIR ANTHONY PARSONS AT THE UN, CALLED ON ME THIS MORNING THE REQUEST AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS PROGRAMME. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE BBC HAD REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH GALTIERI THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW THE RESULT. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE ARGENTINE TELEVISION AUDIENCE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER INTERVIEW.

2) CHANNEL 13 CAMERAS HAD FILMED HIS ARRIVAL AT THE INTERESTS

2) CHANNEL 13 CAMERAS HAD FILMED HIS ARRIVAL AT THE INTERESTS OFFICE AND , IF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AGREED HE PROPOSED TO ANNOUNCE HIS REQUEST, TOGETHER WITH MY REACTION LATER TODAY.

3) MENDOZA HAS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN BRITAIN, PROFESSES TO BE AN ANGLOPHILE IN SPITE OF CURRENT DIFFERENCES AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, I TOLD HIM SIMPLY THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT THE REQUEST BY THE FASTEST POSSIBLE MEANS. HE SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME ON MONDAY TO SEE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY REPLY.

4) IN FURTHER DISCUSSION HE INDICATED THAT HIS QUESTIONS WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE CENTRAL ISSUES OF THE REASONS FOR BRITISH ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OVER THE ISLANDS. HE THOUGHT A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERVIEW WOULD BE AMPLE.

5) I WATCHED HIS INTERVIEW WITH SIR ANTHONY SOME DAYS AGO AND, ALTHOUGH IT WAS FAIR IN THE CONTEXT, HE HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF HIMSELF TRANSLATING AND ADDING COMMENTS IN SPANISH WHICH INEVITABLY SLANTED THE PRESENTATION IN ARGENTINA'S FAVOUR. IF THIS REQUEST IS GRANTED I WOULD RECOMMEND CAREFUL CONTROL OF TRANSLATION, THOUGH OF COURSE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS CAN ALWAYS BE INSERTED LATER. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, AND SEEN FROM HERE, SUCH AN INTERVIEW COULD BE WORTHWHILE.

JOY.

UNQUOTE

NNNN

LEE

SENT: /RECD AT 212039Z JMM/JW