

GRS 268

UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO 211347Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE BIS BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 82 OF 21 MAY

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO G T MURCHISON, CHAIRMAN, BRITISH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER, IN ANSWER TO MURCHISON'S TELEX OF 17 MAY (TEXT IN
MIFT).

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR TELEGRAM ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO
REMAIN ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I APPRECIATE YOUR
ANXIETY FOR THEIR SAFETY.

'THE CHILDREN CAN BEST BE SAFEGUARDED BY THE EARLY
WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARGENTINE OCCUPYING FORCES FROM THE
ISLANDS, AS REQUIRED BY THE RESOLUTION 502 OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL. WE HAVE GIVEN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT EVERY
OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW PEACEFULLY. MOREOVER IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SAY WHETHER YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS. THEY MAY NOT OF
COURSE WISH THEIR CHILDREN TO BE EVACUATED FROM THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS. AND IF THEY DID, THEY MIGHT WELL NOT
WISH THEM TO GO TO ARGENTINA.

'IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ANY SOUNDING OF THE OPINION
OF THE ISLANDERS COULD BEST BE UNDERTAKEN BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.
UNFORTUNATELY THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT PERMITTED
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL TO THE ISLANDS.
WE REGRET THIS.

'YOU MAY BE SURE WE SHALL DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO
PROTECT THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL THE FALKLAND
ISLANDERS. BUT I MUST REPEAT THAT THE BEST GUARANTEE OF
THEIR SAFETY WOULD BE IMMEDIATE ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL AS
DEMANDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH THE
SECURITY COUNCIL'.

• PYM

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO

S AM D

GABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

FALKLAND ISLANDS