

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (28) 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 (a)
HD/S AM D
HD/DEF DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/EPD
HD/ECD(3)
HD/UCD
HD/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
EMERGENCY ROOM ✓
RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

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)

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

Miss Dickson, D/ENERGY

[Passed to E.R.]

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MONTEVIDEO 231700Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 355 OF 23 MAY
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK (C IN C FLEET AND DS8)
AND TO PRIORITY UKMIS GENEVA.

MT

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 277: EVACUATION OF CASUALTIES.

AS MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE MY TELEGRAMS NO 222 AND NO 213,
I DECIDED TO PUT IN A FORMAL NOTE SEEKING PERMISSION FOR CASUALTIES
TO BE EVACUATED VIA MONTEVIDEO BY ONE OF OUR HOSPITAL SHIPS.
AFTER ALL AS REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF MY TELEGRAM NO 213,
ONLY IN PRINCIPLE DID URUGUAY AGREE TO ACCEPT HOSPITAL SHIPS.

2. AFTER SUBMISSION OF MY NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO THEN
REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT, I HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN AFFIRMATIVE
REPLY, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT ARRANGE-
MENTS COULD BE MADE THROUGH THE I C R C. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT
GIVEN THE TIME SCALE THIS MIGHT NOT BE PRACTICABLE I WAS TOLD
THAT I C R C INVOLVEMENT WAS NOT (REPEAT NOT) A SINE QUA NON BUT
WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

3. ON NUTS AND BOLTS I WAS ASKED THE OBVIOUS QUESTION NAMELY

(A) HOW MANY CASUALTIES?

(B) WOULD THEY HAVE TO BE HOSPITALISED IN MONTEVIDEO? -
WE KNOW THAT THE BRITISH HOSPITAL AND CERTAIN OTHER
HOSPITALS HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE RECEPTION OF
CASUALTIES FROM EITHER SIDE.

(C) WHAT WERE OUR PLANS FOR THE REPATRIATION OF CASUALTIES?

4. FROM THE ABOVE IT WILL BE CLEAR THAT WHILE FOR THE PRESENT
THE URUGUAYANS WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM AN INVALUABLE
HUMANITARIAN ROLE WE MUST BE SCRUPULOUS IN NOT TAKING THEM
FOR GRANTED. AS I SUSPECTED, THEY CLEARLY EXPECT TO BE ASKED
FOR PERMISSION ON EACH OCCASION AND FOR PRACTICAL REASONS TO
BE GIVEN AS FULL DETAILS AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE.

5. WHILE I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF C IN .C FLEET AND
DSS, I HOPE THAT THEY AND YOU UNDERSTAND MY PROBLEMS HERE. IN
THE WIDER CONTEXT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT AT NO TIME WE GIVE
THE IMPRESSION OF TRYING TO PUSH THE URUGUAYANS. THEY ARE BEING
PUSHED BY THE ARGENTINIANS SO MY CREDIT WITH THE M F A IS BASED
ON SCRUPULOUS ATTENTION TO DIPLOMATIC NICETIES. PROVIDED WE
CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THESE WE CAN FOR THE PRESENT STILL OBTAIN
FAST AND HELPFUL ANSWERS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. BUT TO REPEAT
WE MUST NOT TAKE SUCH RESPONSES FOR GRANTED.

HUTCHINSON

NNNN

SENT AT 231720Z NCG