

CONFIDENTIAL

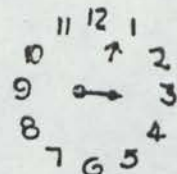
FM WASHINGTON 260105Z MAY 82

26 MAY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1901 OF 25 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND OAS POSTS.



FALKLANDS: EXCLUSION ZONE/RIVER PLATE

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOLD US TODAY THAT THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO CLEAR UP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE RUMOURS CIRCULATING IN THE UN AND THE OAS THAT WE HAD WARNED THE URUGUAYANS AGAINST ALLOWING ARGENTINE WARSHIPS TO USE THE RIVER PLATE, AS A REFUGE. THE US EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO HAD REPORTED THAT WE HAD GIVEN THE URUGUAYANS SUCH A WARNING, AND IT WAS NOW WIDELY BEING SUGGESTED IN LATIN AMERICA THAT THE BRITISH EXCLUSION ZONE APPLIED TO THE ESTUARY. PRESIDENT BELAUNDE EVEN SEEMED CONVINCED THAT WE INTENDED TO BLOCKADE IT.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PANAMANIANIANS HAVE BEEN DISSEMINATING RUMOURS OF THIS KIND AND THAT WE PROPOSE SHORTLY TO TELL THE URUGUAYANS FORMALLY THAT BRITISH OPERATIONS WILL NOT (NOT) BE EXTENDED TO THE WATERS COVERED BY THE 1973 TREATY OF THE RIVER PLATE (I.E. INSHORE OF A LINE FROM PUNTA DEL ESTE TO PUNTA RASA DE CABO SAN ANTONIO).

3. WE HAVE INFORMED THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THIS. THEY WILL DO WHAT THEY CAN TO DAMP DOWN THE EXCITEMENT THESE REPORTS HAVE GENERATED. IN VIEW OF THE RIO TREATY MEETING HERE ON 27 MAY, THEY SUGGEST, IT WOULD BE AS WELL TO MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HENDERSON

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