

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

92.
(29)

IMMEDIATE

6
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR OSBORN
 PS/MS
 MR DILLARD
 SIR I SINCLAIR
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ADAMS
 LORD K GORDON LENNOX
 LORD BRIDGES
 MR URE
 MR GILMORE
 HD/POSD (2)
 HD/S Am D
 PD/DEFENCE D
 HD/NEWS D
 HD/ERD
 HD/EGD(Z)
 HD/UND
 HD/PLANNING STAFF
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
~~EMERGENCY UNIT~~
 RESIDENT CLERK

PS/Ro 10 DOWNING ST (2) ✓

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR }
 MR ILSTT } TREASURY
 MR LITTLER }

MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
 SIR M PALLSER } CABINET OFFICE
 MR WADE-GERY }
 MR FULLER SAPU/DIO }
 DIO }

~~Room 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET~~

[Passed to E.R.]

[Typists a.a.]

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 291400Z

FM PARIS 291200Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 562 OF 29 MAY 82

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS GENEVA, BRASILIA, STOCKHOLM, MODUK (DS11AND DS15).

YOUR TEL NO 348: ASTIZ

1. DUFOURCQ THE DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE IN THE QUAI ASKED TO SEE ME THIS MORNING. HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY YOUR REPLY TO THEIR REQUEST. THEY SUSPECTED THAT OUR NEGATIVE RESPONSE DID NOT REALLY DERIVE FROM LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS. THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE UK HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO SEEK THE AGREEMENT OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND ASTIZ HIMSELF TO THE PRINCIPLE OF QUESTIONS BEING PUT TO ASTIZ. NO LEGAL TEXT OBLIGED THE UK TO DO THIS. FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. DUFOURCQ ADMITTED THAT ASTIZ WOULD PROBABLY REFUSE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, BUT ARGUED THERE WAS NO GOOD REASON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT BE PUT. HE SAID THAT THE FACT OF THEIR HAVING BEEN PUT WOULD AT LEAST HELP WITH PROCEEDINGS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST ASTIZ IN HIS ABSENCE.

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BE TAKEN AGAINST ASTIZ IN HIS ABSENCE.

2. DUFORCQ ASKED ME TO CONVEY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW TO YOU TOGETHER WITH A STRONG REQUEST THAT YOUR DECISION BE RECONSIDERED, BEARING IN MIND THE SUPPORT FRANCE HAD GIVEN THE UK OVER THE FALKLANDS.

3. I REPLIED DRAWING ON TUR, STRESSING THAT WE WERE CONVINCED OF THE CORRECTNESS OF OUR DECISION AND THAT THE ICRC SHARED OUR VIEW.

COMMENT.

4. IT WOULD HELP A LOT WITH FRENCH OPINION IF WE COULD FIND A WAY TO HAVE THE FRENCH QUESTIONS PUT TO ASTIZ, PERHAPS IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ICRC REPRESENTATIVE TO GUARD AGAINST ANY CLAIM OF COERCION, IF THIS OPENED THE WAY TO SOME FORM OF JUDICIAL PROCEDURE IN ABSENTIA AGAINST ASTIZ IN FRANCE, THIS TOO WOULD HELP TO KEEP PUBLIC OPINION ON THE RIGHT SIDE IN RELATION TO THE FALKLANDS AND ARGENTINA. I DO NOT THINK THE FRENCH SERIOUSLY EXPECT ASTIZ TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS PAST BUT THEY EVIDENTLY ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO HAVING DIRECTLY FROM HIM A REFUSAL TO ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS SET OUT IN THEIR ROGATORY COMMISSION.

FRETWELL

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 29/1230Z AM/RECD 1235/29 TG