

ANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (10) 4

(6)
MR HURD
MR ORGLOW
MR PUS
MR BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR BRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
MR/PUSD (2)
MR/S Am D
MR/DEFENCE D
MR/NEWS D
MR/ERD
MR/SCD(E)
MR/UND
MR/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
~~EMERGENCY UNIT~~
RESIDENT CLERK
Hd of S Ad

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (10)

PS/S CP. 3 FOR DEFENCE

MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF XOD

PS/CHANCELLOR }
MR ILSTY } TREASURY
MR LITTLER }

MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
SIR M PALMER } CABINET OFFICE
MR WADZ-GERY }
MR MULLER SAPU/DIO }
DIO }

Room 8 FOR MODUK. C IN C FLEET

[Passed to E.R.]

[Typists a.a.]

GCS 310
UNCLASSIFIED
FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 310920Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 377 OF 31 MAY
INFO PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG
INFO SAVING BCG CAPE TOWN, DURBAN

OUR TELNO 374 : FALKLANDS : ARIS

1. THE (JOHANNESBURG) SUNDAY TIMES YESTERDAY (30 MAY) CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE BY IVOR WILKINS ENTITLED QUOTE ANATOMY OF A Muddle THE MURKY BACKGROUND TO THE ARMS FOR ARGENTINA AFFAIR UNQUOTE.
2. WILKINS DESCRIBES THE CONFUSION HERE WHICH FOLLOWED THE PUBLICATION OF THE ARGUS GROUP'S REPORT OF 24 MAY (OUR TELNO 356) AND ASCRIBES THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE'S STATEMENT (THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT SUPPLIED MISSILES OR AIRCRAFT PARTS TO ARGENTINA) TO A DESIRE NOT TO ALIENATE BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION NOR PRO-BRITISH ENGLISH SPEAKING SOUTH AFRICANS WHOSE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS FOR INTERNAL REFORM.

~~BRITISH OPERATING SOUTH AFRICA'S WHOSE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT
NEEDS FOR INTERNAL REFORM.~~

3. WILKINS ANALYSES STATEMENTS OF BRITISH DISSATISFACTION AT THE LIMITED SCOPE OF GENERAL KALAN'S STATEMENT (THAT IT ONLY COVERED MISSILES AND AIRCRAFT PARTS, AND DID NOT APPLY TO THE FUTURE). THE ARTICLE ENDS "THERE IS OPEN SPECULATION IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT BRITISH DIPLOMATIC SOURCES PLANTED THE STORY TO FORCE THE ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ROLE INTO THE OPEN".

4. YESTERDAY'S RAPPORT (MASS CIRCULATION AFRIKAANS SUNDAY PAPER) HAS A REPORT ON AN INSIDE PAGE DESCRIBING THE DAMAGE WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS SUFFERED ABROAD FROM THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE ARGUS ARTICLE. RAPPORT QUOTES THE LONDON TIMES AS SAYING THAT THE BRITISH WERE PROBABLY BEHIND THE ARTICLE. IN ITS SECOND EDITORIAL, RAPPORT ASSUMES THAT THE BRITISH WERE RESPONSIBLE AND DESCRIBES THIS AS "CHEEK". THE BRITISH HAVE NO RIGHT TO KNOW TO WHOM SOUTH AFRICA SELLS WEAPONS.

PRETORIA PLEASE PASS JOHANNESBURG

FERGUSSON

NNNN

SENT AT 311010Z MAY 82 GAW

57-27301 SA

6

919272 PKDR