

DB 311030z

[PLEASE RETURN COPY TO
TYPISTS]

FALKLANDS SELECTIVE ADVANCES

(37) 45

PS (6)
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR ONSLOW
 PS/PUS
 PS/LORD BELSTEAD
 MR BULLARD
 SIR J SINCLAIR
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR GILLMORE
 MR URE
 MR BARRETT
 ED/S AM D
 HD/DEF D
 ED/PLANNING STAFF
 HD/UND
 HD/NEWS D
 HD/ERD
 HD/PUSD
 MR REED, PUSD
 EMERGENCY ROOM
 RESIDENT CLERK
 HJf WEB

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET (2 copies)

PS/S OF S DEFENCE

PS/HOME SECRETARY

PS/HOME SECRETARY (c/o NO 10 Dst)

PS/ATTORNEY GENERAL

PS/CHANCELLOR DUCHY OF LANCASTER

PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG

PS/SIR M PALLISER

PS/SIR A DUFF

MR WADE-GERY

MR FULLER

MR COLVIN

MR O'NEILL HD ASSESS-
MENTS STAFFCABINET
OFFICE

DIO

MR J M STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

ADMIRAL SIR ROY HALLIDAY DGI MOD

DIRECTOR G.C.H.Q. (via Room 8)

GRS 370

SECRET

DESKBY 311030Z

FM PARIS 311030Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 563 OF 31 MAY

YOUR TELNO 313 : EXOCETS

1. ON RECEIPT OF YOUR TUR, I SPOKE TO BERECHOVY WHO WAS OUT OF PARIS FOR THE LONG WEEKEND (TODAY IS ALSO A HOLIDAY IN FRANCE.) HE ASKED ME TO HAVE THE MESSAGE DELIVERED TO THE ELYSEE. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER TO SEND SIR MICHAEL PALLISER.

2. WHEN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE AT THE ELYSEE LAST NIGHT, A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY HAD A SHORT DISCUSSION WITH MADAME SOUDET, THE ELYSEE DUTY OFFICER. AFTER HEARING THE MESSAGE MADAME SOUDET SAID THAT PRESIDENT MITTERAND HAD BECOME VERY PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. SHE HAD HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM OVER THE WEEKEND AND EACH TIME HE HAD BROUGHT THE CONVERSATION BACK TO THE FALKLANDS. SHE SAID THAT THE PRIME

~~WITH HIM ONE. THE WEEKEND AND EACH TIME HE HAD BROUGHT THE CONVERSATION BACK TO THE FALKLANDS. SHE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT WHERE THE PRESIDENT STOOD ON THE QUESTION OF EXOCETS FOR PERU. HE WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO THEIR RELEASE. HE WAS IN NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT THEY WOULD AT ONCE BE PASSED ON TO THE ARGENTINE, AND THE ELYSEE VIEW WAS THAT THEY WOULD BE USED AGAINST THE LIVER G2.~~

3. WHEN ASKED WHY, IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THERE SHOULD BE ANY QUESTION OF THE MISSILES BEING RELEASED, MADAME SOUDET SAID THAT WE MUST REALISE THAT THE COMMERCIAL PRESSURES ON THE PRESIDENT WERE ENORMOUS. THEY WERE BEING EXERTED BOTH BY ARMS FIRMS AND BY FIRMS TRADING WITH LATIN AMERICA.

4. IN A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ARGENTINE REPORT THAT HMS INVINCIBLE HAD BEEN ATTACKED AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY SUPER ETENDARDS AND EXOCET, MADAME SOUDET SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD DREAD SUCH NEWS IF IT WERE TRUE, PARTICULARLY AS HE KNEW THAT A SON OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN WAS AMONGST THE CREW. SHE SAID THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S UNDERSTANDING AS AT 30 MAY WAS THAT THE ARGENTINE HAD ONE EXOCET LEFT AND HAD NOT SO FAR SUCCEEDED IN SECURING FURTHER SUPPLIES. SHE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FALKLANDS VERY CLOSELY AND THE MORE WE COULD TELL THE ELYSEE THE BETTER.

5. AFTER RE-READING THE MESSAGE MADAME SOUDET SAID THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT PART WOULD BE THE ONE MONTH MINIMUM. DID WE REALLY EXPECT THE CONFLICT TO GO ON THAT LONG? PRESIDENT MITTERRAND MIGHT BE ABLE TO STALL FOR A LIMITED PERIOD BUT A MONTH SEEMED A LONG TIME. MADAM SOUDET'S ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED AGAIN TO THE ARGUMENTS ON THIS POINT.

6. WE ARE PRESSING THE ELYSEE FOR AN EARLY RESPONSE.

FRETWELL

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 31/1010Z AM/BTH