

~~FLASH~~

GBUGG ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOBONN 016/10

ZZ BONN

GRS 258
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 101010Z JUN 82
TO FLASH BONN (FOR S OF S'S PARTY)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 297 OF 10 JUNE
INFO FLASH. PARIS, STOCKHOLM

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY
LT CDR ASTIZ

1. THE BRITISH PRESS THIS MORNING IS CARRYING THE STORY THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR ASTIZ TO LEAVE ON 9 JUNE, BUT THESE WERE CANCELLED AT THE LAST MOMENT AND HE IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE ON 10 JUNE. NEWS DEPT ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT A DECISION TO REPATRIATE ASTIZ HAS BEEN TAKEN, BUT ARE REFUSING TO BE DRAWN ON TRAVEL DETAILS. IF PRESSED IN THE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON, MR WHITELAW IS RECOMMENDED TO SAY THAT ASTIZ IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE LATER TODAY, BUT GIVE NO FURTHER ZNTAILS. WE ARE TELLING THE FRENCH AND SWEDISH EMBASSIES HERE THAT ASTIZ IS LEAVING TONIGHT. IN VIEW OF THEIR PREVIOUS ATTITUDES, IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THE FRENCH WILL MAKE A FURTHER HIGH LEVEL APPROACH IN BONN TO PERSUADE US TO DELAY ASTIZ'S DEPARTURE. OUR VIEW REMAINS THAT, IN VIEW OF HIS COMPLETE REFUSAL TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS, NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY SUCH A DELAY.
2. WE HAD HOPED THAT ASTIZ WOULD LEAVE LAST NIGHT. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE MOD HAD BOOKED HIM ON A PLANE STAGING HIM THROUGH LISBON, WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS CUSTODY DURING THE FLIGHT. WE WERE UNABLE TO PERSUADE EITHER THE BRAZILIANS OR THE ICRC TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND HIS DEPARTURE HAD TO BE DELAYED. THE BRAZILIANS HAVE NOW AGREED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM ONCE HE REACHES BRAZIL. HE WILL BE TRAVELLING ON A DIRECT BRITISH CALEDONIAN FLIGHT, ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNARMED ESCORT PROVIDED BY THE MOD, LEAVING AT 2100 TONIGHT.

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