

MODUK

12 JUN 1982

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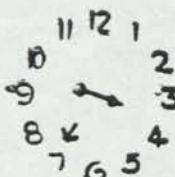
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FM BRASILIA 121315Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 272 OF 12 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA, MODUK(DS11, DS5 SCPL(1))



(33)

TELECON PERCEVAL-GOSNEY

FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE PROTEST OVER BAHIA PARAISO

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH OF ARGENTINE NOTE NUMBER 935/82 IN WHICH THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES ARE ASKED TO PASS TO HMG THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:-

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA WISHES TO REMIND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF THE CLEAR DISPOSITIONS OF THE SECOND GENEVA CONVENTION WHICH REFERS IN ITS ARTICLE 22 TO THE PROTECTION TO BE AFFORDED TO HOSPITAL SHIPS.

THE DEEPEST CONCERN OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AROUSED BY THE ATTACK CARRIED OUT BY BRITISH AIRCRAFT ON THE ARGENTINE HOSPITAL SHIP "BAHIA PARAISO" AT A TIME WHEN THIS WAS MOORED AT PUERTO ARGENTINO, WITH WOUNDED ON BOARD, AND WHILE A COMMISSION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, WHICH HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED BY THIS HOSPITAL SHIP, WAS CARRYING OUT ITS MISSION IN THE TOWN.

THE BRITISH AIRCRAFT FIRED TWO MISSILES, ONE OF WHICH STRUCK NEAR THE HOSPITAL SHIP, WHILE THE OTHER WENT WIDE, CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO A NEARBY HOUSE BELONGING TO A LOCAL INHABITANT.

CONFRONTED WITH AN ACT OF THIS KIND, WHICH FAILS TO RESPECT THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND CONSTITUTES A CLEAR VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA IS OBLIGED TO DENOUNCE THIS ACTION. UNQUOTE.

HARDING