

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRASILIA 161545Z JUN 82

IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 273 OF 16 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE BERNE, UKMIS GENEVA, SANTIAGO, MONTEVIDEO, MODUK,  
CINCFLEET

YOUR TELNO 196: FALKLANDS CEASEFIRE

1. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED TO THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT AT THE MFA AT 151430Z, LEAVING WITH HIM A SCOUT DE PAPIER. I ALSO SHOWED HIM THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN YOUR TELNO 122 TO BERNE. AMBASSADOR RICUPERO UNDERTOOK TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER IMMEDIATELY. ALTHOUGH I URGED HIM TO PRESS FOR A VERY RAPID REPLY, I DOUBT IF ONE WILL BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE TOMORROW.
2. RICUPERO ENQUIRED WHETHER WE HAD CONSIDERED MAKING A SIMILAR APPROACH TO THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. I SAID THAT I WAS NOT INFORMED ON THIS POINT; BUT I ASSUMED THAT BOTH THE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AND OUR OWN EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER SOME STRAIN BY THE RECENT OPERATIONS TO REPATRIATE PRISONERS OF WAR, MANY OF THEM SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, AND THE SHEER SCALE OF THE PRESENT REQUIREMENT WAS PROBABLY BEYOND THE RESOURCES THAT THE URUGUAYANS COULD MOBILISE.
3. RICUPERO SUGGESTED ( AS BAENA SOARES HAD DONE YESTERDAY) THAT IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT TO BRING THE BRAZILIAN RED CROSS IN ON THE GAME, IN THE EVENT THAT APPROVAL WAS GIVEN FOR REPATRIATION FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN BRAZIL. I SAID THAT THE HEAD OF THE BRAZILIAN RED CROSS HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES. IT SEEMED TO ME A GOOD IDEA TO ENLIST THEIR HELP, BOTH PRESENTATIONALLY AND BECAUSE ALL HANDS TO THE PUMP WILL BE NEEDED.
4. MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE HAS JUST TOLD ME THAT, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, HE HAD SPOKEN ON THE TELEPHONE LAST NIGHT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, URGING THAT THE BRAZILIANS SHOULD PRESS THE ARGENTINES FOR A RAPID AND POSITIVE REPLY TO OUR MESSAGE. GUERREIRO HAD SAID FLATLY THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA.

NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA.

5. DESPITE THE UNHELPFULNESS OF GUERREIRO'S REACTION, MY IMPRESSION FROM BAENA AND RICUPERO IS THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES WILL DECIDE TO CO-OPERATE OVER REPATRIATION, BUT THEY MAY FIRST WISH TO ASSURE THEMSELVES THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD NOT OBJECT. THEY ARE STILL CAUGHT ON THE HOOK OF THEIR OFTEN-REPEATED SUPPORT FOR THE ARGENTINE CLAIM TO THE FALKLANDS; AND THEY WILL NOT WISH TO MAKE ANY MOVE WHICH MIGHT SEEM TO ENDORSE OUR RE-ASSERTION OF SOVEREIGNTY, SO LONG AS IT IS UNDILUTED BY ANY OFFER OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARE SCARED STILL OF THE PROSPECT OF A COLLAPSE OF AUTHORITY IN BUENOS AIRES, WITH UNFATHOMABLE RESULTS FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. WHAT THEY FAIL TO SEE AS YET IS THAT THEIR OWN RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE THEIR ARMS MAY WELL BRING NEARER THE DEMISEMENT THEY FEAR.

HARDING

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 16:

1612Z ED//CAW