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[Passed to E.R.]

[Typists a.a.]

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 174 OF 17 JUNE

MY TELNO 162: BRITISH JOURNALISTS IN USHUAIA

1. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF A REPORT TO THE SWISS FDFA BY M. GROB OF THE SWISS EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES ABOUT THE CONSULAR VISIT WHICH HE MADE FROM 11 TO 13 JUNE.

BEGINS

THANKS TO THE PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF REGULAR FLIGHTS TO THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY, JOURNEYS OUT ON 11 JUNE AND BACK ON 13 JUNE WERE EFFECTED WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS. CAPTAIN GRIECO AND COMMISSIONER FAROIO GAVE ME FREE ACCESS TO THE PRISON AND THE THREE DETAINEES

BARROJO GAVE ME FREE ACCESS TO THE PRISON AND THE THREE DETAINEES WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTION. MEETINGS WITH THE THREE JOURNALISTS TOOK PLACE IN THE EVENING OF 11 JUNE, DURING THE DAYTIME AND EVENING OF 12 JUNE AND AT DAWN ON SUNDAY, 13 JUNE.

MY CONVERSATIONS WITH GRIECO AND BURROJO PERMITTED THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS TO CONDITIONS OF DETENTION TO BE OBTAINED:

(A) PRACTICE OF SPORT OR PHYSICAL EXERCISE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK AT THE POLICE GYMNASIUM SEMI COLON

(B) USE OF A TELEVISION SET, WHICH I HANDED TO THE DETAINEES SEMI COLON

(C) TELEPHONE CALLS WITH THEIR FAMILIES CAN HENCEFORTH BE RECEIVED IN A SEPARATE OFFICE AND NOT AS AT PRESENT IN THE GENERAL HUBBUB.

THE DAY OF MY ARRIVAL THE DETAINEES HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PART OF THE PRISON, WHICH HAD BEEN FRESHLY REPAINTED. SINCE THEN THEY HAVE HAD TWO CELLS, EACH OF THREE METRES SQUARE (ONE A DORMITORY, THE OTHER A LIVING-ROOM), PLUS THEIR OWN BATHROOM.

AFTER TWO MONTHS DETENTION, THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE OF THE THREE JOURNALISTS CAN BE CONSIDERED GOOD. THEY TOLD ME OF HAVING HAD A FEW SHORT MOMENTS OF DEPRESSION. FOOD IS CONSIDERED DECENT. THEY ARE PERMITTED TO HAVE FRUIT AND OTHER PRODUCTS BOUGHT FOR THEM. THEY SAY THAT THEY ARE WELL TREATED EXCEPT FOR THE RARE INCIDENT WITH SUBORDINATE PERSONNEL IN THE PRISON. POST REACHES THEM UNCENSORED.

I ALSO HAD A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH THE FEDERAL JUDGE, DR SAGASTUME. WITHOUT INDICATING PRECISE DATES, HE HINTED TO ME OF AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE ENQUIRY. THE EVIDENCE IS BEING RE-EXAMINED BY THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES.

AS IN THE PAST THE EMBASSY WILL CONTACT THE THREE DETAINEES EACH WEEK BY TELEPHONE TO ENSURE THAT THE PROMISES MADE BY THE PRISON AUTHORITIES ARE BEING KEPT.

ENDS

POWELL-JONES