

REFC 022/17

Z FCG

E.R.

CG UKMIS NEW YORK

CC WASHINGTON

ACTION COPY

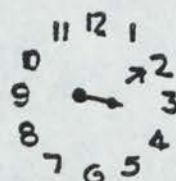
CC BRASILIA

GRS 350

16 JUN 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BERNE 170100Z



TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 169 OF 17 JUNE

AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK BRASILIA

MY TELNO 168

FALKLANDS CEASEFIRE

THE SWISS FDFA PASSED TO US AT 2355Z ON 16 JUNE A MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES, OUR TRANSLATION OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINS.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY AND AS AN INDICATION OF OUR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ANSWERS I INFORM YOU THAT

1. THE CONTENTS OF OUR COMMUNICATION OF 15 JUNE 82 WERE HANDED IN THE FORM OF A NOTE PERSONALLY TO AMBASSADOR KELLER SARMIENTO (RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN EUROPE) BY HERR ITEN AT 12.15 HRS LOCAL TIME YESTERDAY.

2. THIS MORNING THIS EMBASSY ENQUIRED AS TO THE SITUATION REGARDING THE ARGENTINE ANSWER.

3. AFTER RECEIPT OF YOUR COMMUNICATION OF 16 JUNE HERR ITEN AT 10.30 HRS REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH KELLER SARNIENTO OR AMBASSADOR PLIT. ACCORDING TO JAREGUI AN OFFICIAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BOTH WERE IN CONFERENCE. THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL PROMISED TO PUT FORWARD HERR ITENS REQUEST AS SOON AS THEY LEFT THE MEETING.

4. AT 1415HRS MY COLLEAGUE TELEPHONED JAREGUI AGAIN WHO EXPLAINED THAT BOTH AMBASSADORS WERE AWAY FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WOULD NOT RETURN BEFORE 1600 HRS. AS REGARDS THE CEASEFIRE HE SAID THE DECISION LAY WITH THE JUNTA AND THEY WERE STILL STUDYING THEIR ANSWER. HERR ITEN THEN DISCUSSED THE CONTENTS OF YOUR COMMUNICATION OF 16 JUNE WITH HIM. AT 1530 HRS MY COLLEAGUE TOOK A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH INCLUDED THE SIGNIFICANT PART OF YOUR LAST MESSAGE (A COPY OF WHICH I SENT AS USUAL BY COURIER). AT THE SAME TIME HE REQUESTED A MEETING FOR ME WITH DEPUTY MINISTER ROS AND KELLER SARNIENTO.

5. AT 1630 I SPOKE TO BOTH ON THE TELEPHONE. IN THE JUNTAS' VIEW IN NO EVENT COULD A BRITISH SHIP ENTER AN ARGENTINE PORT. MOREOVER THE INFRASTRUCTURE HERE FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SOLDIERS WAS NOT READY. THE PROPOSAL BY GREAT BRITAIN WAS DESCRIBED AS QUOTE CRUEL UNQUOTE. AS SOON AS THE JUNTA HAD REACHED A DECISION, THIS EMBASSY WOULD BE INFORMED.

6. THE DRIFT OF THE ARGUMENTS OF KELLER SARNIENTO AND ROS INDICATE TO ME THAT IT IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION NOW THAN IT APPEARED THIS MORNING. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO CONCEAL FROM YOU THAT I AM WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE BRITISH TERMS.

ENDS

POWELL-JONES