

OO WASHINGTON

OO SANTIAGO

OO BRASILIA

OO MONTEVIDEO

OO UKMIS GENEVA

OO UKMIS NEW YORK

OO MODUK (DS5, DS11, SC AND L)

OO CIN C FLEET

10 JUN 1982

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TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 177 OF 18 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, SANTIAGO, BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO, UKMIS GENEVA, UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK (DS5, DS11, SC AND L), C IN C FLEET

MYTEL NO 175: REPATRIATION OF ARGENTINE POWS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF A MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES TO THE SWISS FDXA REFERRING TO THE MESSAGE CONTAINED IN YOUR TELNO 124 AND THAT FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES FORWARDED IN MY TELNO 169.

BEGINSM

1. I HAVE JUST GIVEN TO DEPUTY MINISTER ROS OF THE MFA A NOTE DERIVED FROM (REFERENCE TO MESSAGE IN YOUR TELNO 124). HIS REACTION WAS TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION THAT I PASSED TO YOU YESTERDAY (REFERENCE TO MESSAGE FORWARDED IN MY TELNO 169 OF 17 JUNE) THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN FOR ANY BRITISH SHIP TO DOCK IN ARGENTINE CONTINENTAL TERRITORY. HE ADDED INCIDENTALLY THAT ARGENTINA WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY



169 OF 17 JUNE) ~~THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN FOR ANY BRITISH SHIP TO DOCK IN ARGENTINE CONTINENTAL TERRITORY.~~ HE ADDED INCIDENTALLY THAT ARGENTINA WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR A CEASE-FIRE AS LONG AS THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING BEING ABLE TO REOPEN THE DISCUSSION OVER SOVEREIGNTY.

2. I HAVE AT THE SAME TIME OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM GENERAL CERDA, AUDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND THE SENIOR OFFICER CHARGED BY THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF AS RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE ICRC. HE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY TO AUTHORISE THE CANBERRA TO SAIL TO MONTEVIDEO, DECLARING THAT THAT PORT HAD SUFFICIENT SPACE AND DRAUGHT FOR A SHIP OF THAT SIZE. IN ADDITION HE CLAIMED THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED TWO DAYS AGO AUTHORISATION FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW HOSPITAL AND TRANSPORT SHIPS TO GO TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TO REPATRIATE SOLDIERS TO THE MAINLAND OF ARGENTINA. UP TILL NOW NO RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST HAD BEEN GIVEN.

3. I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT GENERAL GALTIERI HAS JUST RENOUNCED HIS FUNCTIONS AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GROUND ARMY AND THUS AS A MEMBER OF THE JUNTA. IT IS PROBABLE THAT HE WILL ALSO SHORTLEY RESIGN FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND UNTIL THE NOMINATION OF HIS SUCCESSOR BY THE NEW JUNTA GENERAL SAINT-JEAN, CURRENTLY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, WILL PRESIDE IN THE INTERIM. GALTIERI IS REPLACED AT THE HEAD OF THE LAND ARMY BY GENERAL NICOLAIDES, AT PRESENT COMMANDER OF THE ARMY FIRST CORPS, THAT OF BUENOS AIRES. I MET HIM SOME MONTHS AGO AT HIS HQ IN CORDOBA WHEN HE WAS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY THIRD CORPS. HE IS REPUTED TO BE A MAN OF THE RIGHT CONSIDERED AS HARD AND UNIMAGINATIVE.

ENDS.

POWELL-JONES

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