HOTEKIHEAK OO

OO BERNE

חונים

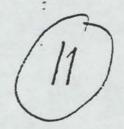
GRS 250

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRASILIA 19:0002Z JUN 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 286 OF 18 JUNE



AND TO FLASH MODUK (DS5, DS11, SC AND L), CINCFLEET REPEATED INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA, UKMIS NEW YORK, MONTEVIDED, SANTIAGO, WASHINGTON, BERNE

MY TELMOS 282 AND 285: REPATRIATION OF ARGENTINE POWS

ACTING HEAD OF AMERICAS DEPT SUMMONED COUNSELLOR THIS EVENING AND SHOWED HIM, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE TEXT OF A MEMORANDUM FROM THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY TO ITAMARATY WHICH REHEARSES THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES! PREFERENCE FOR MONTEVIDEO AS PORT OF DISEMBARKATION FOR REPATRIATING ARGENTINE POWS AND THEN GOES ON TO SAY (IN SPANISH):

QUOTE. IN THE EVENT THAT IT PROVES NECESSARY TO USE A PORT ON THE BRAZILIAN COAST FOR THE REPATRIATION, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE INTERVENTION OF BRAZIL IN ITS CAPACITY AS PROTECTING POWER. UNQUOTE.

- 2. LYRA WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ANY INTERPRETATION OF THIS RATHER SURPRISING ARGENTINE PODIFICATION OF THE HAPSH LINE TAKEN IN THEIR NOTE OF 16 JUNE (MY TELMO 292). BUT IT SEEMS TO ME PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT MENTION OF THE RED CROSS IS OMITTED IN THIS CONTEXT WHILE THE INTERVENTION OF BRAZIL IN ITS CAPACITY AS PROTECTING POWER IS SPECIFICALLY PRESCRIBED.
- 3. LYRA WAS NOT AUTHORISED AT THIS STAGE TO GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT FROM THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE USE OF A BRAZILIAN PORT, NOR COULD HE SAY WHETHER RIG GRANDE (THE MOST OBVIOUS CHOICE, BEING ONLY SOME 300 MILES BY SEA FROM MONTEVIDEO) COULD COPE WITH A SHIP OF CANBERRA'S SIZE AND DRAFT. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THESE POINTS URGENTLY AND HAVE AN AMSWER READY IF POSSIBLE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) HORNING.

4. IF YOU WISH HE TO PURSUE THIS OFTION WITH THE BRAZILIANS, PLEASE TELEGRAPH ACCORDINGLY.