

OO SANTIAGO

18 JUN 62

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRASILIA 19:0002Z JUN 62

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 286 OF 13 JUNE

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

MY TELNOS 282 AND 285: REPATRIATION OF ARGENTINE POWS

1. 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 MODIFICATION OF THE HAPSH LINE TAKEN IN THEIR
NOTE OF 16 JUNE (MY TELNO 282). 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 RIO 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 ANSWER READY IF POSSIBLE
TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

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