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DESKBY 121900Z

FM FCO 121600Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 286 OF 12 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE BERNE, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BRASILIA,  
MONTEVIDEO

MY TELEGRAM TO BERNE NO 151

RETURN OF ARGENTINE PRISONERS

1. PLEASE PASS TO THE ICRC THE TEXTS OF OUR MESSAGES TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN MY TELS NOS 148 AND 151 TO BERNE AND OF THE ARGENTINE MESSAGE IN BERNE TELNO 21.
2. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT MV ST EDMUND WILL SAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE UNITED KINGDOM PRISONERS OF WAR BUREAU WILL CONFIRM THE DETAILS DIRECT TO THE ICRC.
3. IN SPEAKING TO THE ICRC YOU SHOULD DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENT IN THE ARGENTINE MESSAGE THAT THE PRISONERS WERE RETAINED UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT THE ALLEGATION IS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. WE ARE TAKING ACTION TO REFUTE IT BOTH WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLICLY. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE ICRC WOULD ALSO MAKE A STATEMENT THAT THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN ACCORDED THE BEST POSSIBLE TREATMENT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND UNDER ICRC SUPERVISION.
4. THE ICRC MAY BE RELUCTANT, IN LINE WITH THEIR NORMAL PRACTICE, TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN ADVANCE OF THEIR FINAL REPORT ON THEIR WORK IN THE FALKLANDS. BUT WE HOPE THEY WILL AGREE TO THE NEED TO SET RIGHT THE ARGENTINE VERSION AND THAT YOU CAN INDUCE THEM TO MAKE SOME PUBLIC COMMENT CONFIRMING THAT OUR TREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS WAS HUMANE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

PYM

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