

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

#4 39

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR G SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

Mr FREELAND

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)
MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
SIR M PALLISER)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)

HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/FALKLANDS UNIT (2)
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
RESIDENT CLERK

ROOM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

Mr. COLIN ROTH, LAEPD; ODA
MR. BORDEN, LAEPD, ODA.

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ms

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS GENEVA 131350Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 401 OF 13 JULY 1982

INFO BERNE, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BRASILAI, MONTEVIDEO.

YOUR TELNO 286: RETURN OF ARGENTINE PRISONERS

1. WE HAVE GIVEN TO THE ICRC THE TEXTS OF THE MESSAGES REFERRED TO, AND HAVE SPOKEN AS INSTRUCTED.

2. DESPITE OUR URGING, ICRC WOULD NOT (NOT) AGREE TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE PRISONERS WERE DETAINED. THEY CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN AND CONFIRMED THAT THEIR DELEGATES WOULD REPORT ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE TREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS. THESE REPORTS WILL HOWEVER BE FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT S CONCERNED AND NOT (NOT) FOR PUBLICATION. IN DEALING WITH THE MEDIA ICRC LIMITED THEMSELVES TO DESCRIBING THE ACTION THEY THEMSELVES HAD TAKEN BUT DID NOT (NOT) COMMENT ON ANYTHING THEY HAD SEEN (OR ON THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS).

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COMMENT

3. ICRC SET THE HIGHEST VALUE ON THEIR TRADITIONS OF DISCRETION AND NEUTRALITY. THEIR SETTLED POLICY IS TO AVOID COMMENTING IN PUBLIC ON CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR ACCESS TO ALL THE PARTIES TO A CONFLICT. IN THE CASE OF ARGENTINA THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR ACCESS TO POLITICAL DETAINEES, AND THEREFORE CANNOT PUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARGENTINES AT RISK. WE SEE NO (NO) PROSPECT OF BUDGING THEM IN THE PRESENT CASE.

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GRS 240N