

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 190

CONFIDENTIAL
FM MONTEVIDEO 141945Z JUL 82
TO ROUTINE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 566 OF 14 JULY.

ARGENTINA.

AT TODAY'S 14 JUILLET RECEPTION I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE WHO IS RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTIONS HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- (A) HE THOUGHT THAT THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES WHILE FRAGILE WOULD HOLD BUT
- (B) HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FREE LANCE ACTIVITY BY ONE OF THE SERVICES OR SOME ELEMENT WITHIN ONE OF THE SERVICES. AN ARGENTINE SUBMARINE WAS STILL AT SEA
- (C) THE LOSS OF ARGENTINE PILOTS WAS LESS THAN I SUPPOSED. MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN INJURED BUT MOST WOULD BE ABLE TO FLY AGAIN IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS
- (D) SIMILARLY AIRCRAFT LOSSES HAD TO AN APPRECIABLE EXTENT BEEN MADE GOOD FROM ISRAEL AND PERU
- (E) THE ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL (DESPITE (A) ABOVE) WERE RE-EQUIPPING PARTLY TO ACHIEVE AS MUCH AS THEY COULD PRIOR TO THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT FINANCE THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND SAID HE SUPPOSED ARMED FORCES WERE USING WHAT LITTLE MONEY WAS LEFT
- (F) AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR FOR RE-EQUIPPING WAS NOT ONLY CHILE BUT ALSO TO RE-ESTABLISH ARGENTINA'S POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE.

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

HUTCHINSON

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO

FALKLANDS UNIT

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FALKLAND ISLANDS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

CONFIDENTIAL