14228 - 1

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TO IMMEDIATE BERNE
TELEGRAM NUMBER 151 OF 12 JULY
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,
BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO
YOUR TELNOS 214 AND 212: RETURN OF ARGENTINE POWS
1. PLEASE NOW ASK THE SWISS TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
URGENTLY TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT:
BEGINS:
FOLLOWING THE RECENT EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES, THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
RED CROSS IN GENEVA ABOUT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
IMMEDIATE RETURN BY SEA TO THE ARGENTINE PORT OF MADRYN OF THE
REMAINING ARGENTINE PRISONERS OF WAR.
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE RETURNING THESE PRISONERS OF WAR ON
THE BASIS OF THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT,
IN STATEMENTS MADE TO THE SWISS GOVERNMENT, IN THEIR CAPACITY
AS PROTECTING POWER, TO THE EFFECT THAT ARGENTINA IS ALREADY
RESPECTING A DE FACTO CESSATION OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES AND WILL
CONTINUE TO DO SO.
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT
ARGENTINE ALLEGATIONS THAT THESE PRISONERS OF WAR HAVE BEEN
HELD IN HARSH CONDITIONS. SUCH ALLEGATIONS ARE UNFOUNDED.
THE PRISONERS HAVE AT ALL TIMES BEEN TREATED STRICTLY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, UNDER THE CONSTANT
SUPERVISION OF THE ICRC. THEY HAVE FOR MOST OF THE TIME BEEN
HELD ON BOARD THE MV ST EDMUND, WHERE THEY WERE WARM, DRY, AND
WELL-FED. ENDS
2. IN DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE THE SWISS COULD ALSO SAY THAT THE
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY
THE ICRC THAT ONE ARGENTINE PRISONER, CORPORAL NESTOR RUBEN
CATTAY, WAS INJURED WHILE VOLUNTARILY HELPING WITH MINE CLEARANCE.

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14228 - 1

AND IS RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT. IF HE IS FIT TO TRAVEL HE
WILL LEAVE ON THE MV ST EDMUND WITH THE OTHERS, OTHERWISE HE
WILL BE REPATRIATED AS. SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER BY OTHER MEANS

PYM