

CONFIDENTIAL

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PP UKMIS GENEVA

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FM F C O 151045Z NOV 82

TO PRIORITY UKMIS GENEVA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 383 OF 15 NOVEMBER

AND PRIORITY TO CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY

INFO MODUK (PS/MR WIGGIN)

INFO SAVING BERNE, BRASILIA

ARGENTINE DEAD ON THE FALKLANDS

1. WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE NOW UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE A POSITIVE ANSWER FROM THE ARGENTINES OVER REPATRIATION OF THEIR DEAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IF AT ALL. WE ALSO URGENTLY NEED TO MAKE MORE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEAD ON THE ISLANDS WHOM THEY BURIED, OFTEN IN AN UNSATISFACTORY MANNER. WE ARE THEREFORE STARTING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REBURIAL OF ALL THE ARGENTINE BODIES. ON THE BASIS OF PRELIMINARY WORK BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION (CWGC) THREE SEPARATE SITES ARE ENVISAGED FOR ARGENTINE CEMETERIES: GOOSE GREEN FOR THOSE ALREADY BURIED IN AND AROUND THE SETTLEMENT, ADJACENT TO PORT STANLEY FOR THOSE NOW BURIED INSIDE THE CEMETERY THERE, AND A THIRD ELSEWHERE. ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE MOD OR CWGC. ALL THE BODIES WOULD BE BURIED IN WOODEN COFFINS AND THE GRAVES MARKED WITH CROSSES (ON THE FRENCH PATTERN AND IN CONTRAST WITH OUR OWN DEAD WHO WILL HAVE HEADSTONES). REBURIAL WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH DIGNITY ACCORDING TO RC RITES, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE NEW YEAR.
2. PLEASE INFORM THE ICRC OF THE ABOVE AND ASK THEM TO INFORM THE ARGENTINES. YOU SHOULD ALSO ASK THEM TO PASS ON THE MESSAGE THAT OUR OFFER OF REPATRIATION STILL HOLDS GOOD: IF THE ARGENTINES WANT TO TAKE IT UP, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY SHOULD LET US KNOW BEFORE ACTUAL REINTERMENT TAKES PLACE (APART FROM ANYTHING ELSE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE FOR COFFINS WHICH ARE BEING TRANSPORTED ANY DISTANCE).

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FOR PORT STANLEY

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU AND GENERAL THORNE HAVE DISCUSSED THESE ARRANGEMENTS WITH CWGC REPRESENTATIVE AND WE ASSUME THIS WILL BE REFLECTED IN HIS REPORT. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL HOWEVER FOR YOUR VIEWS ON SITES FOR ARGENTINE CEMETERIES, TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF FEELINGS OF THE ISLANDERS. WOULD THERE BE RESERVATIONS ABOUT BURYING ARGENTINE DEAD AT SAN CARLOS, WHICH IS ONE IDEA BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CWGC?

PYM

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