

ATC
Argentina

RESTRICTED

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OO PARIS
GRS 390
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FM FCO 191530Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE PARIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 647 OF 19 NOVEMBER
AND TO MODUK
MY TELNO 646: AM39S FOR ARGENTINA

NO 22
H.A.

1. IN CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN MY TUR YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE FRENCH ARE AWARE OF THE FULL PRESS LINE BEING TAKEN BY NEWS DEPARTMENT, IE:

'THESE ARE PART OF THE BALANCE OF AN EXISTING CONTRACT FOR WHICH LICENCES HAD ALREADY BEEN ISSUED. WE ARE NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT DELIVERIES HAVE BEEN RESUMED, PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINITIVE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES ON THE PART OF ARGENTINA. AS WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID, HOWEVER, IT IS FOR EACH COUNTRY TO DECIDE ITS OWN POLICY ON ARMS SALES.'

2. STRICTLY FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, NO 10 TOLD THE LOBBY THIS MORNING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NO COMMENT ON THE EXPORT OF EXOCETS AND SUPER ETENDARD AIRCRAFT BY FRANCE TO ARGENTINA. THE COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HER ON EARLY NEWS BROADCASTS WERE 'LURID': THE GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS THE ONE STATED BY THE FCO SPOKESMAN (PARA 1 ABOVE).

UNATTRIBUTABLY NO 10 HAVE REFERRED TO THE FACTS THAT THIS IS A LONG-STANDING CONTRACT, AND THAT THE FRENCH ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR VIEWS. THEY HAVE CONCEDED THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED AT THE ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT BECAUSE OUR VIEWS WERE ALREADY WELL KNOWN. THEY HAVE DECLINED TO ANSWER A QUESTION ON FUTURE CONTRACTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WAS HYPOTHETICAL AND CONCLUDED BY AFFIRMING THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND HAD BEEN LOYAL AND HELPFUL DURING THE CONFLICT. ON YOUR APPROACH TO THE FRENCH, THEY ARE SPEAKING AS IN PARA 3 OF MY TUR.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM THE FRENCH THAT, SPEAKING ON BBC'S 'WORLD AT ONE' TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID:
'WE HAVE ASKED ALL OUR ALLIES NOT TO DELIVER ARMS UNTIL WE HAD GOT AN UNDERTAKING FROM THE ARGENTINES THAT HOSTILITIES HAD

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PERMANENTLY CEASED. YOU SEE, THEY HAVE NEVER ADMITTED THEY HAVE PERMANENTLY CEASED. THEY HAVE IN FACT STOPPED AT THE MOMENT, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER SAID HOSTILITIES ARE PERMANENTLY AT AN END. NOW, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A VERY BIG GARRISON AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A BIG GARRISON DOWN THERE BECAUSE WE MUST KEEP ENOUGH PEOPLE THERE IN SHIPS, IN AIRCRAFT AND IN MEN AND EQUIPMENT BOTH TO DETER, AND, IF NECESSARY, TO DEFEAT. AND WE SHOULD FEEL VERY DEEPLY HURT, I THINK, IF THE ARMAMENTS OF OUR ALLIES WERE USED AGAINST US. ANYTHING OF COURSE IS A THREAT UNTIL THEY HAVE AGREED PERMANENTLY TO STOP HOSTILITIES WHICH THEY HAVE NOT.'

PYM

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