

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

38

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
SIR W HARDING
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
SIR C TICKELL
MR D C THOMAS
MR CARTLEDGE

ED/PUSD (2)

ED/SAMD

ED/FID

~~ED/DEFENSE DEPT~~
ED/NEWS DEPT

ED/EPD

ED/ECOD(E)

ED/UND

ED/PLANNING STAFF

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST. (3)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR)
MISS M E CUND) TREASURY
MR LITTLER.)

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFF
DIO)

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

MR A FORTNAM IAT/ D. TRANSPORT

RESIDENT CLERK

UNCLASSIFIED

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

(FM BERNE 221410Z)

FM BIS BGKB

RBEQMLAFB IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 127 OF 21 FEBRUARY

OUR TELNO 118, PARA 3

FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF 'LA PRENSA' ARTICLE OF 19 FEBRUARY

'THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE RECENT PROPOSAL BY BRITAIN TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE FALKLANDS IS BASED ON THE DEFENCE OF HER POSITION AS A COLONIAL POWER. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THIS PROPOSAL BY THE INVADING COUNTRY WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE OPEN SUPPORT FOR THE ARGENTINE CAUSE FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE MAJORITY OF OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD. THE MAIN POINTS ESTABLISHED BY BRITAIN CONCERN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMY, FINANCE, COMMERCE AND CULTURE, IN WHICH BRITAIN HAS TRADITIONALLY REAPED THE GREATER BENEFIT.

IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND APART FROM THE JUST REASONS FOR HER STANDPOINT, ARGENTINA IS IN A POSITION TO MAINTAIN HER HISTORIC CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH PROPOSAL WAS CONSIDERED 'INTERESTING' BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS OPINION, AS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY POINTED OUT, IN NO WAY WEAKENS ARGENTINA'S POSITION IN THE DISPUTE.

ARGENTINA CAN COUNT ON VARIOUS IMPORTANT FACTORS IN HER FAVOUR AMONG THEM THE VIRTUAL PARALYSATION OF TRADE WITH BRITAIN, AND THE ENORMOUS COST OF THE BRITISH MILITARY OCCUPATION, ESTIMATED AT 1,500 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR.

THE ABOLITION OF THE 'EXCLUSION ZONE', IMPOSED TO OUR DETRIMENT SINCE APRIL 1982, WHICH OUR COUNTRY DEMANDS AS A BASIS FOR ONCE

THE ABOLITION OF THE 'EXCLUSION ZONE', IMPOSED TO OUR DETRIMENT SINCE APRIL 1982, WHICH OUR COUNTRY DEMANDS AS A BASIS FOR ONCE AGAIN TAKING UP THE THEME OF THE DISPUTE, WOULD FAVOUR BRITISH INTERESTS, IN AVOIDING THE EXPENSE OF PATROLLING THE SEA AND AIR SURVEILLANCE IN THE AREA. THIS DRAIN ON THE ECONOMY, IN ADDITION TO THE CRITICISM LEVELLED AT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD, BUT ALSO IN BRITAIN ITSELF, ALL ADD WEIGHT TO THE ARGENTINE CAUSE.

THE NEXT CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN, WHATEVER THE ELECTION RESULTS - SINCE WITHOUT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ITSELF OPINIONS ARE AT VARIANCE WITH MRS THATCHER'S POLICY - IS ANOTHER POINT THAT COULD BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY, SINCE ACCORDING TO WHAT HAS BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE, THE BRITISH PUBLIC IS UNWILLING TO WITHSTAND AD INFINITUM THE COST OF THIS PIRACY.'

MIPT

JOY

POWELL-JONES

NNNN