

TYPISTS COPY

ADVA COPIES

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

- PS (2)
- PS/LADY YOUNG
- PS/MR WHITNEY
- PS/MR RIFKIND
- PS/PUS
- ~~SIR J BULLARD~~
- C* MR FREELAND
- SIR W HARDING
- MR GOODALL
- MR O'NEILL
- SIR C TICKELL
- MR D C THOMAS
- MR WESTON
- MR ~~BARRINGTON~~
- HD/PUSD
- HD/SAMD
- HD/FID
- HD/NEWS DEPT
- HD/EED
- HD/ECD (E)
- HD/UND

(2)

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST  
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
 MR RD NICHOLLS, AUSD STAFF, MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR }  
 MISS M E CUND } TREASURY  
 MR LITTLER }

SIR R ARMSTRONG }  
 MR ~~A D S GOODALL~~ } CABINET  
 DIO *Carlisle* } OFFICE

MR POWER, SAD, ODA  
 E J LINDLEY  
 MR ~~A FORTNAM~~ IAT/D. TRANSPORT

RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 250830Z

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 241950Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 695 OF 24 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE BERNE, BISBA, PORT STANLEY, WASHINGTON

YOUR TELNOS 111 AND 112 TO ABIDJAN: RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

SUMMARY

1. I DELIVERED YOUR MESSAGE TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WHO GAVE ME AN ACCOUNT OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION AS SET OUT BY MR CAPUTO AT THEIR MEETING ON 22 JULY (ADVANCED FROM 24 JULY).

DETAIL

2. I DELIVERED A SUITABLY PERSONALISED VERSION OF THE MESSAGE IN YOUR SECOND TUR TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THIS MORNING, 24 JULY, AND EMPHASIED OUR FEELINGS OF REGRET AND PUZZLEMENT OVER THE BREAKDOWN. I WONDERED WHETHER HIS MEETING WITH THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ON 22 JULY HAD SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE SITUATION WHICH MIGHT HELP US AVOID REGARDING THE BREAKDOWN AS A BARRIER TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE NORMALISATION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA.

3. READING FROM THE RECORD OF HIS MEETING WITH MR CAPUTO, PEREZ DE CUELLAR CONVEYED THE FOLLOWING FOUR ARGENTINE POINTS AS GIVEN TO HIM BY CAPUTO:

(A) ARGENTINE INSISTS THAT ITS POSITION AT THE BERNE MEETING WAS STRICTLY IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MUTUALLY ESTABLISHED BASIS FOR THE TALKS. IF THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE AN OPEN AGENDA BE INFORMAL AND NOT

STRICTLY IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MUTUALLY ESTABLISHED BASIS FOR THE TALKS, I.E THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE AN OPEN AGENDA, BE INFORMAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONDITIONS: ARGENTINA DID NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE DISCUSSION OF SOVEREIGNTY BUT MERELY WISHED TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY THE WAYS AND MEANS OF DISCUSSING SOVEREIGNTY IN DUE COURSE,

(B) THE REFUSAL BY THE UK OF EVEN SUCH AN INFORMAL AND NON-COMMITTAL SUGGESTION COULD HAMPER THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RULE OUT THE MILITARY OPTION TO THE SOLUTION OF THIS NAGGING PROBLEM WHICH CONTINUES TO BE FAVOURED BY CERTAIN SECTORS,

(C) ARGENTINA WAS ESPECIALLY DISTURBED BY THE EXCESSIVE FORMALITY ADOPTED BY THE UK AT WHAT HAD BEEN MEANT TO BE AN INFORMAL MEETING (CAPUTO REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE PAPER READ OUT BY MR THOMAS). INSTEAD OF A DIALOGUE IT HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF MONOLOGUES,

(D) THE LACK OF AN ONGOING DIALOGUE MAY HAVE THE UNFORTUNATE CORILLARY OF UNLEASHING ACRIMONIOUS DEBATES IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4. PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT CAPUTO HAD SOUNDED GENUINELY DISAPPOINTED (''THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE IS A VERY GOOD ACTOR OR NOT'') AND HAD EXPRESSED A READINESS FOR ANY FURTHER MEETING PROVIDED THE THREE POINTS IN (A) ABOVE (OPEN AGENDA, INFORMAL MEETING AND NO PRIOR CONDITIONS) WERE RESPECTED.

5. I THANKED PEREZ DE CUELLAR FOR THIS EXTREMELY HELPFUL ACCOUNT. I COULD ONLY SAY THAT THERE WERE MANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN DIPLOMACY AND THERE WERE DIFFERENT NATIONAL STYLES. A CERTAIN DEGREE OF FORMALITY MIGHT BE A NECESSARY FOUNDATION AT THE START OF DELICATE TALKS. THE FACT WAS THAT WE HAD TAKEN A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING. THIS AGREEMENT HAD NOT HELD. WE MUST NOW TAKE STOCK, TAKING ACCOUNT OF WHAT HE HAD SAID OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION. I TOOK THE POINT ABOUT THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT HOPED THAT THIS COULD BE AVOIDED.

6. PEREZ DE CUELLAR CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THAT HE WAS AT OUR DISPOSAL AND THAT WE COULD RELY ON HIS ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF UN RESOLUTIONS. I UNDERTOOK TO PASS THIS ON.

7. DE SOTO (WHO WAS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL) TOLD THE HEAD OF CHANCERY (WHO WAS WITH ME) AFTER THE MEETING THAT ARGENTINE POSITION (B) SHOULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ALFONSO GOVERNMENT TO STAMP OUT THOUGHTS OF A NEW MILITARY VENTURE NOT (NOT) THAT SUCH A VENTURE WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED. DE SOTO ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE ARGENTINES WERE IN THE PROCESS OF CIRCULATING A LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SETTING OUT THEIR POSITION. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER DOING LIKEWISE.

MARGETSON