

ADVANCE COPIES

37 35

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

PS (2)  
 PS/LADY YOUNG  
 PS/MR RENTON  
 PS/MR RIFKIND  
 PS/PUS  
~~MR DEREK THOMAS MR JENKINS~~  
 J FREELAND  
 SIR W HARDING  
 MR GOODALL  
 MR O'NEILL  
 MR C TICKELL  
 MR D C THOMAS  
 MR WESTON  
 MR BAZZINGTON  
 ID/PUSD  
 ID/SAMD  
 ID/FID  
 ID/NEWS DEPT  
 ID/EED  
 ID/ECD (E)  
 ID/UND

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 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
 MR ~~PD~~ NICHOLLS, AUSD STAFF, MOD  
 NH

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

SIR R ARMSTRONG }  
 MR ~~A D S~~ COODRILL } CABINET  
 DIO *Carledge* } OFFICE

MR POWER, SAD, ODA

MR A FORTNAM IAT/D. TRANSPORT

RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

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(FM BERNE 271540Z)  
 FM BISBA  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELNO 639 OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1984

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REPEATED IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, SANTIAGO,  
 UKREP BRUSSELS, MONTEVIDEO, EC POSTS

BRITISH / ARGENTINE RELATIONS : ARGENTINE FALKLANDS RESOLUTION

1. AT TODAY'S MONTHLY EC MEETING AND LUNCH THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OVER PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNGA DEBATE ON THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION. THE FIRST QUESTION I ASKED MY COLLEAGUES WAS HOW THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS WOULD VOTE THIS YEAR. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, FRESH FROM A MEETING WITH GEORGE SABATO, ARGENTINE MFA SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SPECIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING THE FALKLANDS, TOLD US THAT WHEN HE HAD POINTED OUT TO SABATO THE TOUGHER REFERENCES IN THIS YEAR'S DRAFT TO COLONISATION AND THE STRONG CONTRAST DRAWN BETWEEN BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE AND ARGENTINE WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE, EXPLAINING THAT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR EUROPEAN STATES TO ACCEPT, SABATO HAD REPLIED THAT THESE WERE NEGOTIABLE. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THEN

HAD REPLIED THAT THESE WERE NEGOTIABLE. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THEN CONFIRMED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INITIAL DRAFT HAD BEEN MADE TOUGHER AS A TACTIC TO PERMIT SUBSEQUENT EASING UP FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE EUROPEAN STATES AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE ON THE BRINK OF CHANGING THEIR VOTES TO FAVOUR ARGENTINA.

2. MY COLLEAGUES AGREED THAT A GENUINE AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF WOULD BE A PSYCHOLOGICAL PLUS FOR ARGENTINA, SHOWING HER AT LAST WILLING TO COMPROMISE. BUT DIFFICULTIES OVER THE BEAGLE WERE AGREED TO BE MULTIPLYING, AND THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION BECOMING MORE TENSE WITH PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON DISAPPEARED PERSONS AND TODAY'S STATEMENT BY THE SUPREME ARMY COUNCIL THAT MILITARY ORDERS GIVEN DURING THE DIRTY WAR WERE UNEXCEPTIONABLE. ALFONSIN WOULD BE FACED SOON WITH DIFFICULT INTERNAL DECISIONS, PERHAPS BEFORE THE VOTE, WHICH MIGHT REPERCUSS UNFAVOURABLY ON ARGENTINA'S EXTERNAL IMAGE AND AFFECT THE RESULT. THERE WAS NO CERTAINTY AMONGST ARGENTINE OFFICIALS THAT THEY WOULD INDEED IMPROVE ON LAST YEAR'S RESULT.

3. MY GUEST OF HONOUR, JORGE TRIACA, OF THE CGT, DULY TURNED UP AND GAVE A VERY FRANK REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, DESCRIBING HIS OWN POLITICAL POSITION AS "SLIGHTLY LEFT OF CENTRE" AND APPEARING WILLING TO WELCOME A MIXED IN ARGENTINA.

JOY  
POWELL-JONES

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 271600Z KR//~~2222~~DC