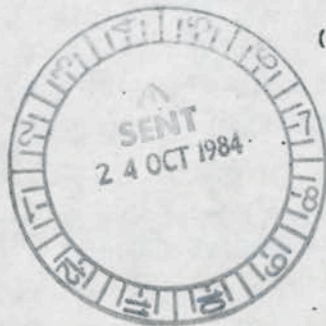


FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/MR RENTON
 PS/MR RIFKIND
 PS/PUS
 MA DEREK THOMAS
 (A) J FREELAND
 SIR W HARDING
 MR GOODALL
 MR O'NEILL
 SIR C TUCKELL
 MR D C THOMAS
 MR WESTON
 MR BRUNSTON
 ED/PUSD
 ED/SAMD
 ED/FID
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 MR ~~PS~~ NICHOLLS, AUSD STAFF, MOD
 NH

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

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 MR ~~ED S COBBALL~~) CABINET
 DIO (Antelope)) OFFICE

MR POWER, SAD, ODA

MR A FORTNAM IAT/D. TRANSPORT

RESIDENT CLERK

GRS 600

UNCLASSIFIED

(FM BERNE 241400Z)

FM BISBA

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 695 OF 23 OCTOBER 1984

IMMEDIATE

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PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL PAPERS HEADLINE ALFONSIN'S INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND YESTERDAY IN PARIS. THEY CLAIM THAT FRANCE HAS PLEDGED HER SUPPORT FOR THE RESCHEDULING OF ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN DEBT HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB DE PARIS, AND HAS COMMITTED HERSELF TO AN INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN THE MINING, PETROCHEMICAL AND OIL INDUSTRIES HERE.
2. ALFONSIN AND HIS FRENCH HOSTS WERE ALSO SAID TO HAVE AGREED ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES SUCH AS CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE FALKLANDS. MITTERRAND WAS TREATED TO AN ARGENTINE EXPOSITION OF BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE OVER THE ISLANDS SOVEREIGNTY, AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HIMSELF COMMENT ON THE DISPUTE OR SUGGEST THAT FRANCE WOULD CHANGE HER NEUTRAL POSITION IN THE FORTHCOMING UNGA, SEVERAL REPORTS SEEK TO CONCLUDE THAT SHE WILL BACK ARGENTINA.
3. AFTER "LA NACION'S" PUBLICATION YESTERDAY OF UN SECRETARY-

3. AFTER "LA NACION'S" PUBLICATION YESTERDAY OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S REPORT ON THE FALKLANDS QUESTION, THE REST OF THE PRESS RELAY DETAILS AND CONTEND THAT HIS ANALYSIS IMPLICITLY CRITICIZES THE UK'S REFUSAL TO DISCUSS SOVEREIGNTY.
4. THE ARMED FORCES SUPREME COUNCIL, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE PART PLAYED BY THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS IN THE FALKLANDS WAR, WILL TODAY BEGIN RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS OF EVIDENCE FOR WHICH 20 DECEMBER HAS BEEN FIXED AS A DEADLINE. TWO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAVE REPUTEDLY RESIGNED.
5. INTERIOR MINISTER ANTONIO TROCCOLI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE BEAGLE PLEBISCITE WILL TAKE PLACE ON 25 NOVEMBER. THE PERONISTS WILL TODAY CONSIDER WHETHER TO INSTRUCT THEIR MEMBERS TO SUPPORT OR REJECT THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT. MEANWHILE, THE CHIEF OF THE NAVY GENERAL STAFF, REAR ADMIRAL RAMON AROSA, HAS INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY FEELS QUOTE SOMETHING MORE COULD PERHAPS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED UNQUOTE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE DISMISSED SUGGESTIONS OF DISCONTENT IN HIS SERVICE.
6. IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALISTS QUESTIONS, AROSA ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE NAVY HAD TAKEN DELIVERY OF THREE MEKO 360 DESTROYERS AND A SUBMARINE OF WEST GERMAN MANUFACTURE. HE ADDED THAT A SECOND SUBMARINE SHOULD BE DELIVERED NEXT YEAR, WHILE ARGENTINA CONTINUED WITH THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION OF SIX 140-TYPE CORVETTES AND FOUR OTHER SUBMARINES, THOUGH PROGRESS ON THESE PROJECTS WAS QUOTE SUBJECT TO BUDGETARY REALITIES UNQUOTE.
7. "CLARIN" NOTES THAT PAYMENT OF THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT TO ENSURE A REAL INCREASE IN WAGES AFTER THE THIRD QUARTER HAS BEEN DELAYED BY THE ECONOMY MINISTRY FROM THE END OF OCTOBER TO THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER. INTEREST RATES IN THE INTER-COMPANY CALL MARKET HAVE RISEN TO 41 PER CENT PER MONTH. BANK CLERKS ARE THREATENING STRIKE ACTION IN THE FACE OF RUMOURS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BANK BRANCH OFFICES, THUS PROVOKING POSSIBLY 30 THOUSAND REDUNDANCIES. COURT OFFICIALS HAVE INITIATED A STOPPAGE IN SUPPORT OF PAY DEMANDS.
8. WIDE COVERAGE IS GIVEN TO JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FORMER MILITARY REGIME WHO ARE CHARGED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THE DETENTION OF EX-PRESIDENT ROBERTO VIOLA HAS BEEN ORDERED, WHILE RETIRED GENERALS LUCIO BENJAMIN MENENDEZ AND OMAR GRAFFIGNA HAVE JOINED MEMBERS OF THE FIRST JUNTA IN DEMANDING THAT THEIR CASES BE INVESTIGATED BY THE ARMED FORCES SUPREME COUNCIL AND NOT BY THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES.
9. FORMER MONTONERO LEADER MARIO FIRMENICH WILL TOMORROW BE QUESTIONED ON HIS TERRORIST ACTIVITIES DURING THE DIRTY WAR. HIS EXTRADITION FROM BRAZIL WAS YESTERDAY CONDEMNED IN A FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LEFT-WING PERONIST DAILY "LA VOZ" BY OTHER SENIOR MONTONEROS WHO WARNED THAT QUOTE UNDER THE FORMAL APPEARANCE OF DEMOCRACY, THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS ECONOMIC PLAN AND POLITICAL PERSECUTIONS, IS TAKING US ON A ROAD WHICH AIMS AT THE DESTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC PEACE UNQUOTE.

JOY

POWELL-JONES