

CONFIDENTIAL

61576 - 1

OCMIAN 1576
CONFIDENTIAL
PP ROMEE
FM FCOLN TO WASHI
191100Z JUN
GRS 611

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELNO 962

OF 191100Z JUNE 87

AND TO IMMEDIATE BERNE

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, PORT STANLEY

INFO PRIORITY ROME, PARIS, BONN, MADRID, BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO,

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK.

RECENT ARGENTINE STATEMENTS ON UK/ARGENTINE RELATIONS

1. A REUTERS REPORT, DATED BUENOS AIRES 17 JUNE, CLAIMS THAT ALFONSIN SENT MRS THATCHER A NOTE ON FRIDAY 14 JUNE CONGRATULATING HER ON HER ELECTION VICTORY. CAPUTO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE NOTE WAS INTENDED TO OPEN 'A POLITICAL SPACE' WITH BRITAIN AND THAT 'ARGENTINA HAS REITERATED ITS WILL TO OPEN DIALOGUE' AND 'AWAITS THE BRITISH REACTION'. HE ADDED THAT ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAD MADE EFFORTS TO CONTACT BRITISH OFFICIALS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS OFFERED BY THIRD COUNTRIES DURING ALFONSIN'S VISIT TO SWITZERLAND BUT THAT 'WHETHER WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS OR NOT, THE OTHER PARTY WILL HAVE TO SAY'. CAPUTO IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT 'FRIENDLY WESTERN NATIONS' HAD SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA AND THAT 'THERE ARE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST AND HAVE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITIES AND MECHANISMS THAT COULD RESOLVE THIS ISSUE THAT IS ABSOLUTELY BLOCKED BY THE BRITISH POSITION.' HOWEVER, HE REITERATED ARGENTINA'S REFUSAL TO

[If so,
not yet
received]

CONFIDENTIAL

61576 - 1

11 ENTER INTO DIRECT TALKS WITH THE UK UNLESS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
AGREED TO DISCUSS SOVEREIGNTY.

2. THIS REPORT ECHOES AN EARLIER ONE FROM BUENOS AIRES CARRIED IN THE TIMES OF 15 JUNE, IN WHICH ALFONSIN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE UK AND SWITZERLAND WERE PUSHING ACTIVELY FOR TALKS BETWEEN BUENOS AIRES AND LONDON ON THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE. HE CLAIMED THAT WASHINGTON WAS 'PERMANENTLY BOTHERED' BY THE DISPUTE AND WAS 'WORKING VERY STRONGLY' TO GET TALKS GOING, ALTHOUGH IT HAD MADE NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS. THE SWISS TOO WERE TRYING TO FOSTER TALKS AND WERE 'A BIT MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN BEFORE'.

3. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO BOTH THE SWISS EMBASSY (HOLD) AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY (NEITZKE) AND BOTH HAVE DENIED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN ANY NEW INITIATIVE. WE HAVE TOLD THEM AND THE ITALIANS, WHO HAD PICKED UP THE EARLIER REPORT, THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE BRITISH POSITION AND THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE ARGENTINES ARE HOPING TO ACHIEVE. WE ARE AWARE THAT ALFONSIN OFFERED HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS THATCHER DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND ON 12 JUNE (BERNE TELNO 128, NOT TO ALL) BUT WE HAVE AS YET SEEN NO SIGN OF A NOTE. GRATEFUL FOR ANY LIGHT THAT BERNE CAN SHED ON THIS AND CAPUTO'S CLAIM THAT ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAD CONTACTED BRITISH OFFICIALS DURING ALFONSIN'S VISIT TO SWITZERLAND.

4. NEITZKE ALSO TOLD US THAT ALFONSIN ON HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE US HAD ASKED TO SEE SHULTZ WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT HE WANTED TO RAISE THE FALKLANDS. IT SEEMED SHULTZ HAS DECLINED ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE. NEITZKE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IN HIS ABSENCE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WOULD TAKE PLACE.

5. CAPUTO'S REITERATION OF THE TRADITIONAL ARGENTINE REJECTION OF DIRECT TALK EXCLUDING SOVEREIGNTY CONTRASTS WITH HIS MORE POSITIVE FORMULATION ON THE ALLEGED (AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW NON-EXISTENT) EFFORTS OF INTERMEDIARIES. HIS REMARKS MAY AMOUNT TO NO MORE THAN CUSTOMARY PLAYING TO THE GALLERY BUT THEY COULD ALSO REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO PRESENT EXCHANGES ON FISHERIES IN A FAVOURABLE LIGHT. YOU MAY CARE TO CONFIRM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT (WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD NEITZKE) THAT NO MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND TO ASK IF THEY CAN ADD

2

CONFIDENTIAL

61576 - 1

ANYTHING TO WHAT NEITZKE HAD TO SAY ABOUT ALFONSIN'S APPARENT
INTEREST IN RAISING THE FALKLANDS WITH SHULTZ.

HOWE

OCMIAN 1576

FALKLANDS ISLANDS LIMITED

LIMITED

FID
DEF D
SAMD
UND
MAED
W IAD
MCAD
WED
NEWS D
INFO D

PLANNING STAFF
ECONOMIC ADVISERS
RES D
PUSD
PRU
LEGAL ADVISERS

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR PATTEN
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
MR GILLMORE
SIR J. FRETWELL
MR BOYD
MR FEARN
MR FALL
MR RATFORD
MR CAINES ODA
MR AINSCOW ODA
MR SAMUEL ODA
MISS PESTELL

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS

-3 -

Confidential