10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 September 1989

ANGLO-ARGENTINE RELATIONS: IPU CONFERENCE

I have seen a copy of Bob Peirce's letter to you of 31 August, suggesting that the Speaker might receive Senator Eduardo Menem during the IPU Conference. The Prime Minister would be grateful if the Speaker were able to undertake this.

C. D. POWELL

P. J. Kitcatt, Esq., C.B., House of Commons.

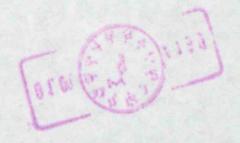


Foreign and Commonwealth Office London SW1A 2AH 31 August 1989 Anglo/Argentine Relations: IPU Conference As you know, a group of Argentine parliamentarians will be visiting London from 4-7 September to attend the IPU Conference, led by Senator Eduardo Menem, President of the Argentine Senate and younger brother of the new President. The Foreign Secretary believes that it is in the British interest to help the Argentine Government defend their policy of rapprochement with us against domestic criticism and sustain the momentum of the process. It would be helpful in this context if Senator Menem were given some individual attention during his time here. The Argentines may well ask for a meeting with a Minister, which would be difficult for us in the absence of diplomatic relations. In order to head this off, the Foreign Secretary would be most grateful if the Speaker could offer to receive him instead. I understand that the Speaker's diary is still free for the afternoons of the week of the Conference; the Speaker might perhaps invite Menem for a pre-lunch drink or tea one afternoon. I enclose a background note on Senator Menem. If the Speaker is able to receive him we will provide full briefing on Argentina and Anglo/Argentine relations, and will be ready to supplement this with an oral briefing if the Speaker would find that useful. I am sending copies of this letter to Charles Powell (No 10), to Brian Hawtin (MOD) and to Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Department). (R N Peirce) Private Secretary P Kitcatt Esq House of Commons LONDON SWI



PERSONALITY NOTES

MENEM, DR EDUARDO



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Born 30 April 1938 in La Rioja where he has been a Justicialist Party (Peronist) Senator since 1983. Brother of President Carlos Menem.

Lecturer in law at La Rioja university during the 1970s and also President of the Provincial Lawyers' Association and Law Council. Acted for his brother Carlos when the latter was arrested and imprisoned by the former de facto military government. Has a long standing interest in foreign affairs and he exerts a major influence on his brother. Believed to be responsible for the apparent hard line towards relations with Britain expressed by Menem during the presidential election campaign. But he has since publicly defended Menem's initiative for rapprochement with Britain and in particular the 'umbrella' formula which he believes safeguards the Argentine claim to sovereignty over the Falklands. Provisional President of the Senate since May 1989 and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since July 1989.

Married with three children. He speaks good English.

