

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30)

PS No. 40 DOWNING ST.

PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW

PS/CHANCELLOR  
SIR K COUZENS  
MR LITTLER  
MR HAWTIN  
MR PERETZ  
MR ILETT  
MR MCINTYRE  
H.M.TSY.

PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
HD/DEF D  
HD/NEWS D  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF

DIO CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAPU CABINET OFFICE

MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS DS W60  
RESIDENT CLERK

SIR M. PALLISER CABINET OFFICE  
SIR R. ARMSTRONG, CABINET OFFICE

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

IMMEDIATE  
ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 291350Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 295 OF 28 APRIL

AND TO MODUK (NAVY)

INFO IMMEDIATE LUANDA, PRETORIA

INFO SAVING MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS

1. PIK BOTHA ASKED ME TO CALL THIS MORNING (28 APRIL) TO PASS ON SOME INFORMATION WHICH SAVIMBI HAD GIVEN HIM YESTERDAY (HE IMPLIED THAT THEY HAD MET IN PERSON, BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHERE AND I DID NOT ASK). HE SAID THAT SAVIMBI HAD RELIABLE

WHERE, AND I DID NOT ASK). HE SAID THAT SAVIMBI HAD RELIABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN LUANDA, FROM WHOM HE HAD LEARNED THAT TWO SOVIET LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT (BELIEVED TO BE BEARS) HAD RECENTLY ARRIVED IN LUANDA AND WERE OPERATING FROM THERE TO TRACK THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR FLEET IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT SAVIMBI HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE (PIK) SHOULD PASS THIS ON TO US, WHICH HE WAS NOW DOING. PIK BOTHA SAID HE REALISED THAT THE INFORMATION MIGHT NOT BE NEW TO US.

2. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT IN GIVING US THIS INFORMATION, SAVIMBI CLEARLY HOPED TO EARN SOME CREDIT WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR WHOM HE HAD GREAT RESPECT. I DID NOT COMMENT.

3. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, PIK BOTHA SAID THAT HE WOULD TELL SAVIMBI THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO ME, AND WOULD IMPRESS ON HIM THE NEED TO REGARD THE WHOLE MATTER AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT IT WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE KNOWN THAT HE HAD PASSED ON THIS INFORMATION TO US. I SAID THAT FOR OUR PART HE COULD RELY ON US TO BE COMPLETELY DISCREET.

4. PIK BOTHA, WHO WAS AT HIS MOST FRIENDLY, SAID HE HOPED WE REALISED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL POSITION HAD TO BE ONE OF NEUTRALITY, THERE WAS A FUND OF SYMPATHY, AND GOODWILL IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND IN SOUTH AFRICA GENERALLY FOR THE STAND WE HAD TAKEN ON THE FALKLANDS ISSUE. I SAID I HAD GUESSED AS MUCH, BUT WAS GLAD TO HEAR IT FROM HIM. HE SAID HE WAS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE CLOSEST ATTENTION AND HOPED THAT THE MATTER WOULD SOON BE RESOLVED IN A WAY THAT REDOUNDED TO THE CREDIT OF MRS THATCHER OF WHOM HE SPOKE IN THE WARMEST TERMS.

5. I SAID I FELT SURE YOU WOULD WISH ME TO THANK HIM FOR ALL

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THAT HE HAD SAID.

FCO PLEASE PASS ALL EXCEPT PRETORIA

REID

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