

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

~~(30)~~ (31)

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

ADVANCE COPY

DBY-291730Z  
IMMEDIATE

ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
ED/DEF D  
ED/NEWS D  
ED/UND  
ED/PLANNING STAFF  
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60  
RESIDENT CLERK

Hd/Consular

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST  
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
PS/CHANCELLOR )  
SIR K COUZENS )  
MR LITTLER )  
MR HAWTIN )  
MR PERETZ ) TREASURY  
MR ILETT )  
MR McINTYRE )

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN  
DIO CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO " "

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE  
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

*ms*

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 291730Z

FROM UKMIS GENEVA 291610Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 198 OF 29 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE BERNE, MONTEVIDEO, WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 192: FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ICRC

1. PASQUIER, DELEGATE-GENERAL FOR SOUTH AMERICA AT THE ICRC, ASKED HEAD OF CHANCERY TO CALL THIS AFTERNOON. HIS FIRST POINT WAS TO ASK FOR DETAILS OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS ON SOUTH GEORGIA. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD MUCH HELP ICRC'S DEALINGS WITH THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES IF WE COULD GIVE THIS INFORMATION QUICKLY. (WE SHORTLY AFTERWARDS RECEIVED YOUR TELNO 76 TO BERNE AND ARE PASSING ON TO THE ICRC THE DETAILS IN YOUR TELNOS 77 AND 78 TO BERNE).

2. THE SECOND POINT WAS THAT ICRC NOW HOPE TO VISIT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SOON. PASQUIER SAID THAT THE ICRC HAD MADE PROGRESS IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, WHO WERE NOW TALKING OF AN EARLY VISIT BY AN ICRC TEAM TO COMODORO RIVADAVIA

TALKING OF AN EARLY VISIT BY AN ICRC TEAM TO COMODORO RIVADAVIA, PUERTO GALLEGOS AND THEN ON TO THE FALKLANDS. ICRC COULD NOT CONVINCED THE ARGENTINIANS TO REVERSE THIS ORDER OF PRIORITY, WHICH FITTED IN WITH THE ARGENTINE PRECONCEPTIONS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 OF MY TELNO 190. THE ARGENTINIANS HAD GIVEN THE ICRC TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WOULD PUT AN AIRCRAFT AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

3. PASQUIER SAID THAT IN UNDERTAKING THIS ITINERY THE ICRC AIM WOULD BE TO MAKE CONTACTS WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION AND WITH MEDICAL AND OTHER OFFICIAL PERSONNEL, AND ALSO TO DISCUSS WITH THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEUTRAL ZONES AND OTHER DISPOSITIONS IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER HOSTILITIES. ONE OF THE TEAM MIGHT STAY FOR A LONGER TIME IN THE FALKLANDS. PLANS WOULD NATURALLY BE SUBJECT TO THE EVOLVING POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION.

4. PASQUIER SAID THAT ONE MAJOR PROBLEM WAS THAT THE VISIT COULD NOT(NOT) BE GOT UNDER WAY BEFORE THE FRIDAY DEADLINE FOR THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE. IT LOOKED AS IF THEY MIGHT MOVE BY SATURDAY, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GO TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS UNTIL SUNDAY. THE ICRC THOUGHT THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE TO ACCEPT THE ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT BUT ON THE STRICTEST UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE WHOLE JOURNEY BE DESIGNATED AS A RED CROSS AIRCRAFT WITH RED CROSS MARKINGS. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ICRC TEAM, PLUS ONE ARGENTINE LIAISON OFFICER AND IF NECESSARY A CIVILIAN ARGENTINE OFFICIAL. NO WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION OF ANY SORT WOULD BE ALLOWED ON THE AIRCRAFT NOR ANY OTHER SUPPLIES FOR THE ARGENTINIAN FORCES.

5. PASQUIER HOPED THAT ON THIS BASIS HMG MIGHT ALLOW THE AIRCRAFT TO TRAVEL TO THE FALKLANDS. THE ICRC WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A JOURNEY WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT AUTHORITY OF HMG. LONG ASKED WHETHER THE ICRC HAD CONSIDERED SECURING A NEUTRAL AIRCRAFT OR A CHARTER AIRCRAFT. PASQUIER SAID THEY THOUGHT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET AN ARGENTINIAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT OUTSIDE ARGENTINA. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ICRC HOPED THAT WE WOULD CONCUR IN WHAT WAS SUGGESTED, WHICH SEEMED THE MOST PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

6. PASQUIER ASKED, PROVIDED WE WERE READY IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE FLIGHT, WHAT DETAILS WE WOULD REQUIRE AND IN PARTICULAR HOW MUCH NOTICE WOULD BE NEEDED AND WHAT CHANNEL SHOULD BE USED. HE ASSUMED THAT THESE WOULD BE THE NORMAL DETAILS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT TYPE, NAME OF PILOT, PASSENGERS, FLIGHT PLAN AND PRECISE TIMINGS ENVISAGED. HE WONDERED WHETHER WE WOULD REQUIRE ANY OTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS E.G. FOR RADAR

WE WOULD REQUIRE ANY OTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS E.G. FOR RADAR IDENTIFICATION. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DESIGNATE A PARTICULAR AIR CORRIDOR FOR THE PASSAGE OF THIS AIRCRAFT ON THE OUTWARD AND RETURN JOURNEYS.

7. PASQUIER AGAIN STRESSED THE NEED TO KEEP ALL DETAILS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL . ANY LEAK TO THE PRESS MIGHT KILL OFF THE WHOLE OPERATION.

8. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER AND THE APPROACH OF THE WEEKEND, GRATEFUL EARLIEST POSSIBLE REPLY.

MARSHALL

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SENT AT 29/1641Z IM/ET