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FCO

RR PORT STANLEY

RR MODUK (DEFENCE SALES)

GRPS 400

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BUENOS AIRES 07/2000Z JUNE 1979

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 124 OF 7 JUNE 1979

INFO PORT STANLEY MOD (DEFENCE SALES)

YOUR TELNO 02 : CAVANDOLI

Origin: AIA 353/3

This Copy for: AIA 020/1

Information only / Action on Para(s)

(X)

*Handwritten:* Mr Hall

*Handwritten signature:* Mr Courtney

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1. THANK YOU FOR THIS GUIDANCE. PRESS SPECULATION HERE CONTINUES. LA PRENSA OF 7 JUNE SUGGESTS THAT MR RIDLEY'S MEETING WITH CAVANDOLI MAY PREPARE THE GROUND FOR A MORE FORMAL MEETING IN JULY IN BUENOS AIRES, FOLLOWING A VISIT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE MY ESTIMATE OF THE LINE CAVANDOLI IS LIKELY TO TAKE WHEN HE SEES THE MINISTER OF STATE.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF AMBASSADORS, CAVANDOLI MAY SEEK CONFIRMATION THAT YOU AGREE, AND PRESS FOR SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, CLARIN OF 7 JUNE SPECULATES THAT AMBASSADORS MAY BE APPOINTED BY THE END OF JUNE.

3. ON THE FALKLANDS, CAVANDOLI IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE. HE IS LIKELY TO PRESS FOR ASSURANCES THAT ANY RENEWAL OF THE BILATERAL TALKS WILL BE PRODUCTIVE (FROM THE ARGENTINE VIEWPOINT) AND, IN PARTICULAR, THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY AT AN EARLY STAGE. IT WAS ONLY THE CALLING OF THE GENERAL ELECTION SOON AFTER THE NEW YORK ROUND OF TALKS THAT ENABLED THE MFA TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE PAUCITY OF RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING TWO YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THROUGH THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC

*Faint text at the bottom of the page, partially obscured.*

COMPANY WE HAVE LEARNT THAT THE CHIEF OF MATERIEL OF THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE (BURGOS) IS AT PRESENT IN LONDON WITH ROLLS ROYCE, WITH WHOM HE IS DISCUSSING ENGINEERING SUPPORT FOR THE FORCE'S A4 AIRCRAFT. FOSTER HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE (TEMPORINI) WISHED TO GO TO LONDON BETWEEN 22 AND 25 JUNE TO SEE LORD NELSON, TO WHOM HE WISHES TO PUT THE IDEA THAT A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINA IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND DEFENCE FIELDS COULD HELP TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE. CAVANDOLI, AN AIR FORCE MAN, MAY TOUCH ON THIS THEME.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH CAVANDOLI'S CURRENT ATTENDANCE AT THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN COLUMBO, FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR, AT A LUNCH GIVEN BY EEC HEADS OF MISSION ON 6 JUNE, DEFENDED ARGENTINA'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP. HE SAID THAT, EVEN THOUGH ARGENTINA CONSIDERS ITSELF A PART OF THE WESTERN WORLD, THE POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE NON-ALIGNED IN SUCH MATTERS AS UN VOTES (PRESUMABLY ON THE FALKLANDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS) WAS A VALUABLE COUNTERBALANCE TO THE HEAVY CRITICISM ARGENTINA RECEIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE PRESIDENT VIDELA WOULD ATTEND THE HAVANA MEETING. HAD IT BEEN ELSEWHERE, HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE.

6. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SEE MIFT.

CARLESS

T 07/20567 HR