

SECRET

ALW 040/325/10

RECEIVED		13
15 JUL 1980		
DESK	PA	Section Taken
INDEX	cc PS/Mr Ridley Mr Day	

Mr Duffan 14/7
Mr Duffan 5
Howe would seem to be better choice.
P. Day

Mr Cole
Mr Davies RD.

On X, we deliberately did not invite Grafton - if MOD new team Co is in form at that time, they will pers us to allow them to invite him
15/7

ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. Having ascertained on Friday afternoon, 11 July, that HM Ambassador was on his way to the Argentine Foreign Minister to deliver to Commodore Cavandoli the personal message from Mr Ridley contained in FCO telegram No 143 to Buenos Aires, I asked the Argentine Ambassador to call. When Sr Ortiz de Rozas arrived at 5.45 pm I showed him a topped and tailed text of the message. He was clearly very pleased with this evidence of progress. He said that he well understood the need for closest restriction of knowledge of the proposed confidential meeting. He claimed that his own Embassy was leak-proof and said that anyway he would restrict knowledge of the information he had been given to one or two of his closest collaborators. I said that I was slightly worried about the possibility of a leak through the Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires, which was constantly being probed by the media on news of progress on the Falklands. He said that, in his experience, the Ministry handled that with great discretion and he was unaware of any recent occasion when a damaging leak had occurred.
2. As to the venue for the proposed confidential meeting, Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas wondered whether it might not be convenient for Commodore Cavandoli to come to London in the first week of September under cover of a European Air Attaché's conference which was to be held in his Embassy at that time and which would bring a cohort of Air Force Generals, led by the Chief of Staff, to London. I said that I thought that this would be a great mistake: the very presence of so many Argentine Generals might attract adverse comment especially if, as I understood, many of them went to the Farnborough Air Display. It would be greatly preferable if Commodore Cavandoli and Mr Ridley could meet on neutral ground at a place where their presence stood a good chance of going unnoticed. Sr Ortiz de Rozas then said that Venice or Rome would be a good choice since many senior members of the Foreign Ministry and a number of Air Force Generals had been paying regular visits to the Vatican in connection with the Beagle Channel mediation. Even if Cavandoli were spotted in Rome, it should be easy to pretend that he was there for a similar purpose.
3. I mentioned to Sr Ortiz de Rozas that Mr Ridley had asked me to accompany him to the confidential meeting and enquired who Commodore Cavandoli was likely to bring with him. He said that the Minister's Private Secretary, Commandante Bloomer-Reeve, was the obvious choice.
4. As we parted, I reminded Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas once again of the over-riding need for secrecy. He seemed to accept and understand this perfectly, though I doubt whether he will be able to resist the temptation to telephone Commodore Cavandoli to show that he is in on the act.

G W Harding

14 July 1980

SECRET