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REC 18

20 AUG 1980

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Mr Ridley

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See (15)

PS/ Mr Ridley

cc

PS/LPS

PS/PUS

Mr Harding

Mr Fearn, S Am D

Falkland Islands

13

As you will see from his manuscript comment, the Secretary of State has queried the choice of Venice for the talks mentioned in Mr Ridley's minute of 8 August.

I discussed this on the telephone with Lord Carrington today. He was very firmly of the view that these talks should not take place in Venice. He thought it unlikely that the meeting would remain unobserved (not least by the Italian authorities). If the news leaked, our cover story would look thin, and the furtiveness of the operation could cause us considerable damage.

If we can ensure that secrecy is maintained, Lord Carrington's preference would be for the talks to take place in the United Kingdom. Alternatively, he thought that New York might provide a suitable venue. Both Ministers could find convincing reasons for being there at the same time.

*R M J Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)

14 August 1980

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S/S (13)

But it was bad. odd if it comes out.

See (14)

why Venice. all looks in the very corner. No embassy no nothing. Is this wise. Could they meet here.

Secretary of State

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. It was agreed in OD on 2 July that I should meet my Argentine counterpart, Comodoro Cavandoli, for a strictly confidential and exploratory discussion of the possibilities for a solution to the Falkland Islands dispute.

2. We have now agreed to meet privately in Venice between 9 and 12 September. We shall each be accompanied by one official only, in my case, Mr Harding. Since my camouflage will be a private tourist visit, I propose to take my wife at my own expense. Knowledge of the meeting has been restricted to very few people here and in Buenos Aires: the risk of publicity should be very small.

3. I should be grateful for your agreement to this journey.

R

8 August 1980

Nicholas Ridley

cc: PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
Mr Harding  
Mr Fearn, S Am D



8/8/2

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Mr Harding o.r.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS: MEETING WITH COMODORO CAVANDOLI

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1. Comodoro Cavandoli has now confirmed his agreement to meet Mr Ridley without publicity in Venice between 9 and 12 September. Mr Harding will also attend on our side.
2. In recent discussion with Mr Ridley, it was agreed that, in order to minimise any risk of publicity, we should not seek the help of the Embassy in Rome on administrative arrangements: nor should Italian authorities be advised of the Minister's presence. Mr Ridley suggested that he might wish to make his own hotel bookings (to include a suite for the political discussions). I should be grateful you could let the Department know whether they can help in any way of the administrative aspects.
3. The Secretary of State's agreement will be required for the visit to Venice. I submit a draft minute from Mr Ridley.

*P. R. Fearn*

P R Fearn  
South America Dept.

7 August 1980

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