

21/8/3

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Mr Duggan, SA ¹⁶

A/W 040/325/10	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18	
26 AUG 1980	
DESK OFFICER	
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REGISTRY	
Action Taken	

Mr Harding
PS/Mr Ridley

Minister of State.
21/8.
against alternative (i) below. I think
Brussels would be satisfactory and that
Cavandoli might prefer it to New York. But
we ought if we can to give him his choice.
If Mr Ridley agrees, paragraph 2 of his dft
Telegram will require amendment.

MEETING WITH COMODORO CAVANDOLI: VENUE

Flag A

1. We have discussed further, since my minute of 15 August. ^{(15) 21 Aug.}
2. Security advice is that Italy is extremely risky, both for reasons of personal safety and for maintaining secrecy. Alternatives suggested are:

- (i) a Dutch provincial city (Amsterdam has to be avoided because of terrorists) as the safest venue. The Dutch are entirely reliable and we have close working relations with them; the only drawback is that we would have to let them know not only of the Minister's presence but probably also the reason for it; this might be passed to the Dutch Minister concerned;
- (ii) Brussels: this would involve little Government attention and a meeting in a hotel (e.g. in Mr Harding's room rather than in a Minister's room) could be easily managed.

3. We do not know how Comodoro Cavandoli would view Holland or Belgium: the Dutch in particular have been critical of Argentina's human rights record. The main objection to a Dutch provincial city is that it would look even odder than Venice if it were to come out. Comodoro Cavandoli would have no obvious business reason for being in Brussels (and the idea of Brussels as a holiday venue looks rather thin).

Flag B

4. In the circumstances, the least objectionable venue on personal security and cover grounds seems to be New York (the Private Secretary's minute of 14 August).

5. Before we can take this any further, we really need some indication of Comodoro Cavandoli's views. I recommend that we ask H M Ambassador in Buenos Aires to seek these. I attach a telegram to Buenos Aires.

6. As time is now getting short, it would be best to issue this telegram before the weekend. If these papers can be put in Mr Ridley's box tomorrow morning, PS/Mr Ridley might try to discuss the telegram with the Minister over the phone during Friday with a view to despatching the telegram before the weekend. If Mr Ridley agrees to the recommendation, I presume that we would also want to let the Private Secretary know before the telegram issues.

G A Duggan

G A Duggan
South America Dept.

21 August 1980

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15/8/1

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Rome (15)

AZW 040/325/10			
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 13			
20 AUG 1980			
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PS/MR Ridley
PS

Mr Harding

See (16)

MEETING WITH COMODORO CAVANDOLI: VENUE

(14)

1. The Secretary of State is against Venice (Mr Lyne's minute of 14 August), which had been the preferred venue both of Mr Ridley and of Comodoro Cavandoli (Buenos Aires telegram number 178). The following alternatives are possible:

- (i) Geneva: as an international centre there would be good reason for both Ministers to visit the city; but Comodoro Cavandoli was not keen on Geneva (Buenos Aires telegram number 178);
- (ii) UK/London: we have hitherto always avoided holding meetings of any sort with the Argentines in either Buenos Aires or London, on the grounds that it would be extremely difficult to avoid the press. The Falkland Islands Committee are a particular difficulty in the UK;
- (iii) New York: has been used regularly in the past and was the April venue. We have tended to alternate between the Americas and Europe for our meetings and the embarrassment over the fishing proposal made Europe seem more appropriate when Mr Ridley sent his message to Comodoro Cavandoli in July.
- (iv) Rome: might offer the best compromise solution. The Argentines have good reason for visits to Rome given the Vatican mediation in the Beagle dispute; Comodoro Cavandoli was proposing to slip away from Rome in order to get to Venice. Mr Ridley could easily explain his own presence in Rome as a holiday centre.

2. On balance, therefore, I would recommend that we change the venue to Rome with New York as a possible alternative. We cannot

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take any action, however, until Mr Ridley's return early next week.

Duggan

G A Duggan
South America Department

15 August 1980

A] I agree that his will have to await
Mr Ridley's return. But our Private Secretary may
wish meanwhile to note that Commodore Cavandish
expressed a preference for ~~Geneva~~ Venice over Geneva.
He might accept Rome at a pinch but would
be perplexed and probably unhappy if we now
suggest New York.

Standish
15 August

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