

5/9/16

SECRET

Record now seen by SP  
RyL 17/1x  
What happened at 7/11/80  
Ridley's memo  
31

2, 5 Am

18 SEP 1980

DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
Mr Harding	Action Taken
PS/Mr Ridley	

5 Sept.

1. S.A.D. - For action.  
2. PS - to note.

PA  
18/9

PS/LPS  
cc  
PS  
PS/PUS

Approved by the  
Lord Privy Seal  
Miles A. Wickstead  
19/9/80

M. Ridley agrees.  
8/9  
Simples

Discussed with Mr. Williams.  
UNO will take action with  
UKMIN New York. I have  
informed Argentine Ambassador  
H. Dean 10/9.

UNGA: BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER

Problem

1. The Argentine Foreign Minister, Sr Pastor, is pressing for a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State at the UN General Assembly.

Recommendation

2. I recommend that the Secretary of State agree to such a meeting for Falkland Islands reasons.

Background and Argument

3. The Secretary of State met Sr Pastor at last year's UNGA, principally to discuss the Falkland Islands. This brief exchange was particularly useful in demonstrating to the Argentines and to international opinion that HMG were ready to look for a solution to the dispute. The same considerations apply now.

4. There has since been a first exploratory round of Anglo-Argentine talks, at Ministerial level, in New York in April. The Argentines made clear then their expectation of a further exchange at Foreign Minister level at this year's UNGA: and we implicitly accepted this prospect (para. 42 of attached Record) as usefully marking the next visible stage in the renewed dialogue on the Falklands dispute.

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Flag C

5. The Secretary of State commented on UN Department's submission of 15 August that he would prefer to await the outcome of any meeting which Mr Ridley might have with the Argentines before deciding on whether to see Sr Pastor. This refers to the secret meeting which Mr Ridley will be holding with Comodoro Cavandoli in Geneva on 10/11 September. But we would not necessarily expect from this meeting a quick Argentine reaction to our exploratory ideas for a solution: these will require further and possibly lengthy consideration both by the Argentine Government and in OD before they could be moved ahead in any overt way.

6. The Geneva exchange will not therefore provide a substitute for a meeting between the Secretary of State and Sr Pastor in New York. This will be tactically valuable both in keeping our relations with the Argentine in good order (for Falkland Islands and trade reasons) and in providing evidence which can be used in public by both the Argentines and ourselves (as Mr Ridley's meeting cannot) to demonstrate that discussions continue.

Flag D

7. The Argentines are pressing hard for this meeting through their Ambassador, who has conveyed a personal request from Sr Pastor. If the request is turned down, it will not be understood by the Argentines and we will risk a souring of relations and a misinterpretation of our motives at a particularly delicate moment.

8. UND are aware of and concur in the recommendation in this submission: but it has not been copied to them because of the sensitivity of para. 5 above.

P R Fearn  
South America Dept.

5 September 1980