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FM FCO 281800Z NOV 80

TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (FOR PS/MR RIDLEY)

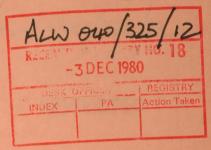
TELEGRAM NUMBER 125 OF 28.11.80

Aug 940/\$25/6

1. IN VIEW OF CONSIDERABLE PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST, MR RIDLEY IS LIKELY TO HAVE TO MAKE STATEMENT ON 3 DECEMBER.

CARRINGTON

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FM FCO 281505Z NOVEMBER 80 TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (FOR PS/MR RIDLEY) TELEGRAM NUMBER 122 OF 28 NOVEMBER

MR RIDLEY'S VISIT: EDITORIAL COMMENT

1. THE TIMES AND TELEGRAPH OF 28 NOVEMBER BOTH HAVE SUBSTANTIAL AND HELPFUL EDITORIALS (TEXTS BY BAG). BOTH STRESS THAT WISHES OF POPULATION MUST BE PARAMOUNT. TIMES WELCOMES OPEN DISCUSSION OF AN ISSUE THAT HAS LONG HUNG FIRE AND WHICH HAS LEFT ISLANDERS IN A KIND OF LIMBO, COLON, QUOTE, IT IS LEGITIMATE TO LOOK FOR WAYS OF SETTLING THE DISPUTE, UNQUOTE, TELEGRAPH SAYS, COLON, QUOTE, WHEN OUR PATRIOTIC HACKLES RISE WE OUGHT TO THINK WHAT A PERPETUATION OF THE STATUS QUO REALLY MEANS, UNQUOTE.

2. TIMES NOTES, QUOTE, SHEER PREDOMINANCE OF ARGENTINA IN FALKLANDS AFFAIRS, UNQUOTE, ITS QUOTE, BLOODSTAINED RECORD, UNQUOTE, AND SENSIBLE PRESENTATION OF, QUOTE PLEASANTER FACE TO ISLANDERS, UNQUOTE IN RECENT YEARS. TELEGRAPH SAYS QUOTE ARGENTINE CLAIM HOWEVER SPURIOUS, WILL NOT JUST GO AWAY, UNQUOTE. BOTH THINK LEASEBACK WORTH VENTILATING, COLON, QUOTE, SLIPPERY AS THIS SOUNDS, IT IS SAID TO FIND FAVOUR WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE IN THE ISLANDS, UNQUOTE. (TELEGRAPH SEES ADVANTAGE IN DENYING COMMUNIST WORLD WHICH HAS INCREASING COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH ARGENTINA, QUOTE, A BASE FOR THEIR WARSHIPS, UNQUOTE. TIMES CONCLUDES THAT IF ISLANDERS ARE TO BE CONVINCED IT QUOTE SHOULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE MERITS OF THE IDEA, NOT THROUGH COERCION. UNQUOTE.

CARRINGTON

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