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*Mr Harding on 8/12*

*have as discussed with Ps (Mr Ridley (r also calls Ps). Draft let sent through Ps (Mr Ridley) to Mr Williams. He shed discuss further before Dir's call on Mr Ridley at 1000 on 9 December*

*File 240/325/10*

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18

11 DEC 1980

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
Mr Fearn		

*RHJ 8/12*  
*Mr Ingham*  
*Mr Bonjard de*

FALKLAND ISLANDS: CONTACTS WITH ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

1. The Argentine Ambassador telephoned at lunchtime to pass on a request from Comodoro Cavandoli. The latter is accompanying his Foreign Minister to Europe next week to attend, with the Chilean Foreign Minister, a meeting the Pope has called on the Beagle dispute. Comodoro Cavandoli was flying to Paris on 9 December, and was anxious to have a meeting with Mr Ridley on 10 or 11 December. He was under great pressure from the Argentine press to make a more forthcoming statement concerning the ideas Mr Ridley discussed in the Falkland Islands.
2. This request was reinforced in Buenos Aires telno 285 which arrived during the afternoon (and has not yet appeared in the distribution).
3. Mr Ridley agreed with your advice that we should point to the difficulties that acceding to this request would cause. I therefore telephoned the Ambassador this afternoon, and spoke on the following lines.
4. Mr Ridley entirely understood Comodoro Cavandoli's difficulties, and expressed appreciation for the cool and courageous way in which the Argentine Foreign Ministry had dealt with speculation and comment so far. Nevertheless, Mr Ridley was sure that the Argentines, for their part, could understand that an early meeting with Comodoro Cavandoli, so soon after Mr Ridley's return from the Islands, would smack of collusion. Given the emotional reaction in the House of Commons to Mr Ridley's statement of 2 December, the Ambassador would appreciate that knowledge of such a meeting would harden opinion both here and in the Islands against Mr Ridley's proposals. Mr Ridley therefore considered that an open meeting with Comodoro Cavandoli should best be avoided at this stage; a clandestine meeting was too dangerous. Nevertheless Mr Ridley wanted to help the Argentines in any way possible. He looked forward to the forthcoming call of the Ambassador (on 9 December) and suggested that we should discuss then what, if anything, the Argentines might say further to the press.
5. The Ambassador understood this entirely. He was quite aware of the emotional reaction there had been to Mr Ridley's ideas. He agreed that the diplomatic channel was the best one to use for such consultations, and added that since Comodoro Cavandoli would be in Europe for several days perhaps he himself might be able to travel to see him. He added that he was most grateful

*Team*

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/for



for Mr Ridley's prompt and understanding response, and undertook to convey what I had said to Comodoro Cavandoli immediately.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K D Temple". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive hand.

5 December 1980

K D Temple  
PS/Mr Ridley

cc: PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
Mr Day o.r.  
Mr Harding o.r.