

has been agreed to New Tel.
has need to monitor carefully the
line to talk with only 3 to 4 lines

TOP COPY

86

10:00 am, 9 December

SECRET

925 520
SECRET

DESKBY 051700Z

FM BUENOS AIRES 05/1550Z DEC 8 DEC 1980

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 285

Aw 040/325/10	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18	
8 DEC 1980	
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
OF 15 DECEMBER 1980	Action Taken
(83)	(85)

PP
8/12

WJH
Mr. Duggan
Mr. Smeeth 8/12
Mr. Bignall
CB 8/12

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 241 ON FALKLAND ISLANDS AND GIRT (PERSONAL
TO PS/MR RIDLEY/MR HARDING)

1. ACTION TAKEN THIS MORNING. I FOUND CAVANDOLI FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR MINISTER'S HANDLING OF WHAT HE HAD ALWAYS KNOWN WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT STAGE IN THE PROCEEDINGS. HE PARTICULARLY APPROVED OF THE WORD QUOTE ENDORSE UNQUOTE FOR WHAT THE ISLANDERS HAVE A RIGHT TO.

2. CAVANDOLI CONFESSED THAT HE ALSO HAD HAD A DIFFICULT PASSAGE AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS WORRY THAT THE ARGENTINE PRESS BUT, EVEN MORE, QUOTE INFORMED OPINION UNQUOTE IN THE CAPITAL MUST BE GIVEN SOON MORE OF A STEER, IF THEY WERE NOT TO RUSH OFF IN A WAY WHICH WOULD FORECLOSE THE ONLY REAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE. HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE NEED NOT TO GIVE ANY APPEARANCE OF HUSTLING THE ISLANDERS BUT THE TIMETABLE ENVISAGED LAST SEPTEMBER IN NEW YORK WAS STRETCHING NOW SO MUCH LONGER THAT IT WAS BECOMING INTERNALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ARGENTINE MINISTERS TO GO ON TELLING THEIR COLLEAGUES AND INFORMED OPINION NO MORE THAN THAT THE SITUATION WAS IN HAND, AND PATIENCE THE BEST RECIPE. HE MUST BE ABLE TO COUNTER THE ACCUSATION THAT A SOLUTION UNSATISFACTORY TO ARGENTINA HAS BEING COOKED UP WITHOUT ARGENTINA BEING CONSULTED.

3. I FLOATED TENTATIVELY AND ON A PERSONAL BASIS THE IDEA THAT IT MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR BRIGADIER PASTOR (OR, AS A SECOND BEST FROM THE ARGENTINE ANGLE) CAVANDOLI HIMSELF SHOULD GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE BBC WHILE THEY ARE IN EUROPE FOR THE PAPAL AUDIENCE OVER THE BEAGLE DISPUTE NEXT WEEK, PRIMARILY WITH THE OBJECT OF EXPLAINING THE ARGENTINE STANCE AND ASSURANCES TO THE ISLANDERS (THE BBC LATIN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IS UNLIKELY TO RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES BEFORE CHRISTMAS WEEK). CAVANDOLI SAID HE WOULD THINK ABOUT THIS.

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4. I HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT ARGENTINE MFA MINISTERS ARE STILL FULLY COMMITTED TO THEIR DETERMINATION TO GET A RATIONAL AND UNDERSTANDING SOLUTION OF THE FALKLANDS PROBLEM FIRMLY LAUNCHED BEFORE THEY HAND OVER TO COLLEAGUES WITH POSSIBLY LESS SOPHISTICATED IDEAS. THEY ARE NOT DISMAYED BY THE ROUGH PASSAGES ANY SUCH AN ATTEMPT IS (IN THEIR VIEW QUITE PREDICTABLY) ENCOUNTERING IN THE FALKLANDS AND IN LONDON. BUT THE ICE ON WHICH THEY THEMSELVES ARE SKATING IS GETTING THINNER AND THEY WANT VERY CLOSE COORDINATION WITH US OVER TACTICS TO GET THROUGH THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

WILLIAMS

LIMITED

HD/SAMD

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/PUS

MR DAY

MR HARDING

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