

8/12/5

90

Mr Harding  
PS/Mr Ridley

RHS  
Mr [unclear] 9/12  
Mr [unclear]

Tuesday

10 am

Disruption marked  
with [unclear] S. BA.

cc  
PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
Mr Day

Thank you

AW 040/325/19

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY 10  
11 DEC 1980

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

[Signature]

Mr James  
cers  
10/12

FALKLAND ISLANDS: CALL ON MR RIDLEY BY ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR:  
TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER AT 10.00 A.M.

1. The Argentine Ambassador, Sr Ortiz de Rozas, is calling on Mr Ridley at 10.00 a.m. on 9 December to discuss the Falkland Islands. I submit a list of Points to Make.

Flag A  
Flag B

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2. Mr Ridley called on Comodoro Cavandoli on his way to the Islands and sent him a brief message on his return. But the call will provide the first opportunity since Mr Ridley's visit to the Islands to discuss progress with the Argentines. We can expect the Ambassador to ask for a detailed account of Mr Ridley's visit and an assessment of the present position. It will be important to stress that no decisions have been taken: and that we cannot prejudice the outcome of the consultations with the Islanders. We await their views.

Flag C  
Flag D

3. The Ambassador will also want to discuss the problems which the Argentine Government is now facing as a result of the public airing of the leaseback and other proposals. They are apparently coming under increasing domestic pressure to take a formal (and negative) position on them: and their problem is how to do so without foreclosing the negotiating options. Comodoro Cavandoli's concerns have been set out to Mr Williams in Buenos Aires: and have also been relayed here by Sr Ortiz de Rozas. Comodoro Cavandoli is hoping for a meeting this week with Mr Ridley in Europe, where he will be for Beagle Channel discussions.

4. The Argentine Government's difficulties are understandable. But we need to know more about the scale of pressure being put on them and its origins (e.g. from the press or from within the Armed Forces). The Argentine Foreign Ministry have so far managed to keep a low profile: and we should encourage them to continue to do so. If they do now need to take a public position critical of the UK proposals and of the manner in which they have been aired, it is important that they should do so in a way which does not curtail the negotiating possibilities and which is not counterproductive in its effect on Islander and parliamentary opinion. We need to leave the Ambassador in no doubt on how difficult HMG's position is while we await Islanders' reactions.

/5. ...



Flag D

5. We have already told Sr Ortiz de Rozas that a meeting this week between Comodoro Cavandoli and Mr Ridley is out of the question. We might be prepared for a senior FCO official to speak to Comodoro Cavandoli if this seemed essential to reassure him. But there would be few advantages and some risks in this: and it would be preferable to keep in touch through our Ambassadors.

P R Fearn  
South America Dept.

8 December 1980

## FALKLAND ISLANDS/ARGENTINA

## POINTS TO MAKE

PRESENT POSITION

1. Now at a very delicate stage politically, both here and in the Islands. Important not to do anything which will make situation more difficult.

NOW AWAITING ISLANDERS' VIEWS

2. Can do nothing until Islanders respond, perhaps in January. Vital that neither UK nor Argentina appear to be putting any pressure on Islanders at this juncture. Urge patience.

UNDERSTAND DIFFICULT FOR ARGENTINES ALSO

3. Glad to have Ambassador's views on situation in Buenos Aires. Have sent message to Comodoro Cavandoli. Realise time-pressures.

GLAD TO HELP IF POSSIBLE, BUT HOW?

4. Is pressure within Government or from the public? Is there real danger of having to take a formal and negative position on the proposals?

IF ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE SOME PUBLIC COMMENT, NO WISH TO SUGGEST WORDS

5. But cannot you simply decline to speculate on merits of any proposals until formally put to you and go on to urge HMG to enter into early and substantive negotiations? Any further public pressure should be on us, not on the Islanders. Vital not to foreclose any options.

/PROPOSED ...



PROPOSED MEETING WITH COMODORO CAVANDOLI

6. Fully understand the difficulties and need to keep in close touch. But politically impossible to meet now. Best course might be for you to brief him personally after our talk.