

GRS 216
UNCLASSIFIED
FM BUENOS AIRES 02/1755Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 58 OF 02 MARCH 1982
AND TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY
INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK

MIPT : FALKLANDS TALKS

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF ARGENTINE STATEMENT:
BEGINS:

AT THE MEETING HELD IN NEW YORK ON 26 AND 27 FEBRUARY?, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA AND GREAT BRITAIN CONSIDERED AN ARGENTINE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH A PRE-ESTABLISHED AGENDA, PRE-ARRANGED MEETING PLACE, AND LED BY TOP-LEVEL OFFICIALS. THE AIM OF SUCH MEETINGS WILL BE GENUINELY TO SPEED UP TO THE MAXIMUM THE NEGOTIATIONS IN TRAIN TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION OF ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MALVINAS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS, AND BY THIS MEANS TO ACHEIVE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS WITHIN A TIME WHICH AT THIS ADVANCED STAGE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE SHORT.

ARGENTINA HAS NEGOTIATED WITH GREAT BRITAIN OVER THE SOLUTION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE OVER THE ISLANDS WITH PATIENCE, LOYALTY AND GOOD FAITH FOR OVER 15 YEARS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK INDICATED BY THE RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. THE NEW SYSTEM CONSTITUTES AN EFFECTIVE STEP FOR THE EARLY SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE. HOWEVER, SHOULD THIS NOT OCCUR, ARGENTINA RESERVES TO TERMINATE THE WORKING OF THIS MECHANISM AND TO CHOOSE FREELY THE PROCEDURE WHICH BEST ACCORDS WITH HER INTERESTS.

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FALKLANDS TALKS : ARGENTINE PRESS COMMENT

1. THE FALKLANDS TALKS ARE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN MOST OF TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS. THE TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (UKMIS TELNO 187) IS WIDELY REPRODUCED, BUT IS OVERSHADOWED BY THE TEXT OF A SEPARATE ARGENTINE STATEMENT WHICH WAS ISSUED BY THE MFA YESTERDAY EVENING (TEXT IN MIFT). THIS (ISSUED BEFORE UNDERSECRETARY ROS'S RETURN TO BA) REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS WITHIN A QUOTE SHORT UNQUOTE TIME-PERIOD AND TO ARGENTINA'S RESERVATION OF THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THIS PROCEDURE IN FAVOUR OF OTHERS IF IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE LEADING TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT.

2. IN A GLOSS ON THE STATEMENT, AN UNNAMED GOVERNMENT SOURCE, QUOTED BY LA NACION, RECALLED CAMILION'S ASSERTION THAT THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE FALKLANDS WAS QUOTE UNSUSTAINABLE UNQUOTE AND CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE SOME, ALBEIT SLIGHT, INDICATION THAT HMG HELD THE SAME VIEW. HE SAID THAT VARIOUS PLANS WERE ALREADY BEING PREPARED FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. THESE INCLUDED ARGENTINE PROPOSALS FOR GUARANTEES FOR THE ISLANDERS' ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS INTERESTS, INCLUDING A SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION OR PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY OF ANY ISLANDERS WHO DECIDED TO LEAVE. HE STATED THAT THERE WERE ALSO PARALLEL PLANS ALREADY FORMULATED IN CASE THE ENVISAGED MEETINGS DID NOT PRODUCE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARDS A SOLUTION ; AMONG THESE WERE RECOURSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND VARIOUS MEASURES WHICH COULD AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS, SUCH AS THE BREAKING OFF OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, POLITICAL RELATIONS, AND FINALLY A TOTAL RUPTURE OF RELATIONS. THE SAME SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK LOCALLY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTINA USING FORCE TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE, HE PREFERRED QUOTE AT THE MOMENT UNQUOTE TO DISCOUNT SUCH SUGGESTIONS.

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