

CONFIDENTIAL S. NO 10, DOWNING STREET.

GRS 122

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM PORT STANLEY 171157Z MAR 1982

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 34 OF 17 MARCH

AND IMMEDIATE INFO BUENOS AIRES AND ROUTINE INFO UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 30: CONSIDERATION OF ARGENTINE PROPOSAL.

1. AT A JOINT COUNCILS' MEETING ON 16 MARCH, AT WHICH ALL COUNCILLORS EXCEPT CHEEK WERE PRESENT, THERE WAS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR YOUR MESSAGE TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AGREEMENT THAT IT SHOULD GO AS WORDED IN YOUR TELNO 29 WITHOUT AMENDMENT. THEY REQUESTED ITS PUBLICATION WITH OR WITHOUT THE ARGENTINES' REPLY.
2. THEY REALISED AND ACCEPTED THAT, IF THE ARGENTINES PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY REPLY, NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROCEED WITHIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK DISCUSSED IN NEW YORK AND ON THE BASIS OF THE TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS MADE IN YOUR MESSAGE. THEY WISHED ME TO EMPHASISE THAT THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY. THEIR AIM IN ANY DISCUSSIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY WILL BE TO CONVINCe ARGENTINES THAT BRITAIN HAS THE STRONGER CLAIM TO THE ISLANDS AND THAT ISLANDERS ARE DETERMINED TO STAY BRITISH.
3. THEY ASKED ME TO EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR THE CLEAR AND STRONG WORDING OF YOUR MESSAGE.

HUNT

STANDARD
SAM D
MAED
UND
ESVSD
SP D
CABINET Office

ADDITIONAL DIST:
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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