

GPS 290

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FM BUENOS AIRES 23/2130Z MAR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 94 OF 23 MARCH 1982

INFO FLASH PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

MODUK NAVY AND CINCFLEET

YOUR TELNO 68 : ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA

1. I CARRIED OUT THESE WELCOME INSTRUCTIONS WITH COSTA MENDEZ AT 2045Z THIS EVENING. HE WELCOMED YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF AND RESPONSE TO HIS PREOCCUPATIONS AND SAID THAT WE, THE DIPLOMATS, WERE NOW ENGAGED IN A MATTER OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN WHICH THE FIRST STEP HAD NOW BEEN TAKEN. HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE JUNTA AND WAS JUST ABOUT TO ENTER A MEETING WITH CERTAIN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AND WOULD GIVE ME SOME RESPONSE TO YOUR PARA 2 LATER THIS EVENING. I SAID THAT, IN ESSENCE THE SITUATION WAS THAT THE MEN MUST GO, TRANSPORTED EITHER BY US OR BY THE ARGENTINES. HE AGREED THAT THIS MEANT THAT AN ARGENTINE REMOVAL NEED NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE THE BUEN SUCESO ITSELF AND I SUSPECT THERE MAY BE SOME OTHER FORM OF TRANSPORT ENVISAGED. MEANWHILE, THE MINISTER CONTINUED, THE OTHER PART OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT WAS HANDLING THE PRESS. WE AGREED THAT HERE IN BUENOS AIRES AT LEAST NOTHING MORE WOULD BE SAID THAN THAT SUCH AND SUCH MEETINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE AND THAT CONTACT CONTINUED.

2. COSTA MENDEZ IS, I THINK, TRYING TO BE HELPFUL AND SENSIBLE, BUT IS ON A SHORT REIN WITH PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MILITARY. HE IS MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE RISK OF SUBJECTING HIS MASTERS TO LOSS OF FACE. IS SHOULD BE GLAD OF VERBATIMS URGENTLY OF WHATEVER WAS SAID IN PARLIAMENT TODAY AND HOPE THAT WE CAN AVOID EG TALK OF QUOTE REMOVAL UNQUOTE RATHER THAN QUOTE DEPARTURE UNQUOTE.

WILLIAMS

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STANDARD

SAMD

CABINET OFFICE

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