

CONFIDENTIAL

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ZZ BUENOS AIRES

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 231928Z MAR 82

TO FLASH BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 68 OF 23 MARCH

INFO FLASH PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

IMMEDIATE MODUK NAVY, CINCPLEET

YOUR TELNO 91: ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA

1. WE RECOGNISE THE RISK THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD ESCALATE DANGEROUSLY. WE THEREFORE WISH TO MAKE A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE IT IN A POLITICALLY UNCONTENTIOUS WAY. IN CONSEQUENCE, INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOW BEING SENT TO HMS ENDURANCE TO PROCEED TO GRITVIKEN AND TO WAIT THERE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
2. PLEASE NOW SPEAK TO COSTA MENDEZ MAKING CLEAR THAT YOU ARE DOING SO ON MY PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT IN VIEW OF THE VERY STRONG EMOTIONS WHICH THIS INCIDENT HAS AROUSED IN THE UK (AS HIS CHARGE WILL HAVE WITNESSED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY) IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE REMAINING ARGENTINE PERSONNEL IN SOUTH GEORGIA SHOULD BE REMOVED WITHOUT DELAY. IF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ARE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE BAHIA BUEN SUCESO TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO LEITH AND TO COLLECT THE REMAINING MEN AND THEIR EQUIPMENT FOR RETURN TO ARGENTINA, I WOULD BE ^{prepared} ~~PREPARED~~ TO AUTHORISE THIS AND WOULD SEE NO NEED FOR HMS ENDURANCE TO BE INVOLVED. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REMOVE THEM OURSELVES. WE HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE SUCH AN ASSURANCE AND CAN LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHEN WE MAY EXPECT THE BAHIA BUEN SUCESO TO HAVE CARRIED THIS OUT.
3. YOU SHOULD GO ON TO TELL COSTA MENDEZ THAT OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE NOW MUST BE TO PREVENT THIS ISSUE FROM DEVELOPING POLITICAL MOMENTUM. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE OVERRIDING NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHT POLITICAL CLIMATE EXISTS FOR OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE FALKLANDS