

P.S. NO 10. DOWNING STREET.

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 186

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DESKBY 26/1730Z

FM BUENOS AIRES 28/1550Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 117 OF 28 MARCH 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR), MODUK (NAVY)
AND CINCFLEET

MY TELNO 115: SOUTH GEORGIA

1. FROM THIS I FEAR WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE ARGENTINES INTEND NO MOVE TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE BUT RATHER TO LET MATTERS RIDE WHILE THEY BUILD UP THEIR NAVAL STRENGTH IN THE AREA AND WE REMAIN IN THE DILEMMA OF EITHER TAKING OR NOT TAKING ACTION OURSELVES. YOU WILL DOUBTLESS BE CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT THE RISKS CLEARLY INVOLVED IN TAKING MEASURES AGAINST THE ARGENTINE WORKMEN ARE ACCEPTABLE AS ALSO WHETHER, AT THIS LATE STAGE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND SOME OTHER GOLDEN BRIDGE - EG BY AGREEING THAT THE WORKMEN'S WHITE CARDS ARE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION AND THAT IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT IF THEY ARE PRODUCED ON DEMAND (AS THEIR TEXT STATES) TO A BAS OFFICIAL VISITING THEIR SITE AT LEITH. IF YOU FEEL THAT BUYING MORE TIME WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE, WE MIGHT PURSUE YOUR TENTATIVE PROPOSAL OF SENDING A SPECIAL ENVOY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN BUENOS AIRES. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE NECESSARY TO DECIDE WHAT OFFER OR PROPOSAL HE WOULD BRING.

WILLIAMS

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STANDARD

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

CABINET OFFICE

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