

BRITISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINE

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GRS 330

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FM FCO 131400Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION, BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 8 OF 13 APRIL

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR MURCHISON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC IN REPLY TO HIS TELEX (TEXT TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY).

BEGINS:

DEAR MR MURCHISON, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TELEGRAM ABOUT THE BRITISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA.

I RECOGNISE THE CONSIDERATION WHICH ARGENTINE GOVERNMENTS HAVE SHOWN TO THE BRITISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA, WHO HAVE - I KNOW - CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THAT COUNTRY. WE HAVE LONG VALUED OUR RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF OUR FAILING TO RESPOND TO THE UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN ITS INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THEIR DEPENDENCIES, AND ITS ATTEMPT TO SETTLE BY FORCE THE LONG-STANDING DISPUTE BETWEEN US.

THE ARGENTINE ACTION HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH HAS PASSED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY A MANDATORY RESOLUTION CALLING ON ARGENTINA TO WITHDRAW, AS WELL AS BY VERY MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD. IT IS OUR EARNEST HOPE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL HEED THIS CALL AND WITHDRAW ITS FORCES.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SEEKS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND WILL PURSUE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS OF SECURING ONE. BUT THERE MUST BE NO DOUBT OF OUR DETERMINATION TO RE-ASSERT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

I REALISE WITH DEEP REGRET THAT THIS SITUATION MAY CAUSE ANXIETIES FOR BRITISH PEOPLE LIVING IN ARGENTINA. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE BEEN ADVISING PEOPLE TO CONSIDER LEAVING THE COUNTRY BY

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NORMAL COMMERCIAL MEANS. IT IS OF COURSE FOR INDIVIDUALS
TO DECIDE HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS ADVICE.
I EARNESTLY BELIEVE THAT ONLY FIRMNESS AND RESOLUTION WILL
CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND THE
PRESERVATION OF PEACE BOTH IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND IN THE
WIDER WORLD.
WITH BEST WISHES, MARGARET THATCHER.
ENDS.

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2

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FM FCO 131500Z APR 1982

TO IMMEDIATE BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION, BUENOS AIRES
TELEGRAM NUMBER 9 OF 13 APRIL

1. MR G T MURCHISON, CHAIRMAN, BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM
TO THE PRIME MINISTER:-

BEGINS

DEAR PRIME MINISTER: ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY
COUNCIL, WHICH CENTRALISES THE CULTURAL, PHILANTHROPIC AND
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF NATIVE BORN BRITONS AND PEOPLES OF
BRITISH DESCENT LIVING IN ARGENTINA, WHO NUMBER IN EXCESS OF
100,000 PEOPLE, WE RESPECTFULLY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WE DO
NOT FEEL THAT OUR SITUATION HAS BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED OR TAKEN
INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN BETWEEN
ARGENTINA AND GREAT BRITAIN. ARGENTINA HAS ALWAYS SHOWN EVERY
CONSIDERATION TOWARDS THE BRITISH COMMUNITY ALLOWING IT TO RUN
ITS OWN SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, HOSPITALS, OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES ETC.
IN ADDITION MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY HAVE INTERGRATED
THEMSELVES INTO ALL ASPECTS OF ARGENTINE LIFE, PLAYING A
PROMINENT ROLE ESPECIALLY IN BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL CIRCLES.
IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS WE ARE LIVING THROUGH, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE
COMMUNITY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS WILL BE SAFEGUARDED AND NO
ANIMOSITY HAS BEEN SHOWN TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY BY THE POPULATION
AS A WHOLE. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SEEK A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO THIS SITUATION AND GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE
STRONG BRITISH PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA AND THE SIZE OF THE COM-
MUNITY LIVING HERE. WE PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU IN
THESE DIFFICULT TIMES AND BLESS YOU AS A PEACEMAKER.
G T MURCHISON CHAIRMAN BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

ENDS

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CONTENTS

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