

Jaramila

Line

We have instructed our Embassy in Berne to ask the Swiss, as protecting power, to protest strongly to the Argentines about this clear contravention of the International Telecommunication Union Convention.

CONFIDENTIAL

3231 - 1

OO WASHINGTON
GRS 312
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 031015Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 897 OF 3 MAY
AND TO IMMEDIATE SANTIAGO
INFO IMMEDIATE MONTEVIDEO
JAMMING OF BBC LATIN AMERICAN SERVICE

1. THE BBC 5 HOURS A DAY LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH SERVICE IS NOW BEING SUBJECTED TO SUBSTANTIAL JAMMING BY TRANSMITTERS IN ARGENTINA. WE ARE EXPLORING WITH THE BBC WAYS OF GETTING ROUND THIS AND PERHAPS INCREASING HOURS OF BROADCASTING IN SO FAR AS THEIR DEMANDS ON BBC TRANSMITTERS PERMIT.
2. THIS IS A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT SINCE WE ATTACH MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE TO ENSURING THAT ARGENTINE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OPINION AT ALL LEVELS IS BEING INFORMED OF THE TRUE FACTS. TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WASHINGTON COULD SPEAK TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES SUPERVISING THE VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA) TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT. VOA SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GIVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE IN THEIR NEWS PROGRAMMES TO STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND OTHERS IN LONDON. THEY SHOULD BE URGED TO DISCOUNT THE HIGHLY INACCURATE STATEMENTS EMERGING FROM ARGENTINA. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO ARNOLD, THE US EMBASSY PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELLOR, WHO SAYS HE WILL IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE USICA AND STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE SAME SENSE. GRATEFUL TO LEARN WHAT THE VOA CAN MANAGE.
3. HMA SANTIAGO ALSO HAS DISCRETION TO APPROACH THE CHILEAN BROADCASTING AUTHORITIES IN THE SAME SENSE. WE RECOGNISE IT MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE CHILEANS TO OBTAIN MATERIAL FROM LONDON AND THEY MAY FEEL SLIGHTLY INHIBITED ABOUT GIVING EXCESSIVE PROMINENCE TO BRITISH AS OPPOSED TO ARGENTINE REPORTS. HOWEVER THE LONDON VERSION OF DEVELOPMENTS IS CARRIED BY THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENCIES AND IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF CHILEAN BROADCASTS AUDIBLE IN ARGENTINA COULD REPORT THE