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GALTIERI'S INAUGURAL SPEECH: 23/12/81.

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24 August 1982

A R Rawsthorne Esq  
 Secretary  
 Falkland Islands Review Committee  
 Old Admiralty Building  
 Room 194  
 Whitehall

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## GALTIERI'S INAUGURAL SPEECH, 23 DECEMBER

1 Thank you for your letter of 12 August and I am sorry for the delay in replying. I attach a copy of the text of Galtieri's inaugural speech on 23 December 1981 as recorded by the BBC Monitoring Service. As you will see this was almost entirely devoted to internal affairs. The only reference to foreign policy issues was short and general (see sidelined passage on the final page of the transcript): there was no mention of the Falklands. I also enclose a copy of a letter from our Embassy in Buenos Aires (Mackenzie's letter of 31 December to Bright), summarising the main points of the inaugural speech.

2 I can therefore shed no light on the comments ascribed to Galtieri on that occasion in The Listener. We have looked through our files for the period and cannot trace reports of this or a similar comment over the period of Galtieri's take-over of the Presidency.

P R Fearn  
 South America Department

scc PS/PUS  
 Mr Giffard  
 Mr Ure o/r  
 Mr Flower, PUSD o/r

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BUENOS AIRES

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21 December 1981

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 CT-5, DEF  
 KCS/1

R H Smith  
 6/1

Mr. S. J. Th  
 should see  
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C C Bright Esq  
 SAND  
 FCO

Dear Colin, c.f.

CCB  
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PRESIDENT GALTIERI'S INAUGURAL SPEECH TO THE NATION

1. Lt General Galtieri addressed the nation on television and radio on 23 December in his inaugural speech as the new President of Argentina. The tone of the speech was one of firmness and austerity.
2. Galtieri admitted that the Military Process, begun in 1976, had been recently overcome with inertia (a clear allusion to ex-President Viola's term) and said that the time for words had gone; now was the time for firmness and action. He claimed that he and his ministerial team had arrived with clean hands and no vested interests. They would impose a policy of economic and financial austerity, including strict control of Government spending, and the denationalisation of State industry. The President announced that a denationalisation plan would be elaborated within 4 months; and within 2 months plans would be made known for the dismantling of unnecessary official organisations. He promised that the slow move towards political normalisation would be continued. And in its foreign policy, Argentina would unequivocally remain in the Western camp where her roots lay.
3. The speech was given a mixed reception, with the economic "liberal" supporters of the Government full of praise, while most of the political parties warned of the economic and social consequences of the Government's likely economic policies. Nevertheless, in measures announced before and after Christmas (please see Mike Jackson's tele-letter ECO/090/3 of 29 December 1981) and in the announcement today of an indefinite freeze on the salaries of public servants, the Economy Minister, Roberto Alemann, has shown the Government is earnest.

Yours  
 Len Mackenzie

K J A Mackenzie

cc: R A E Gordon Esq  
 Santiago  
 Chancery, Montevideo



TAKE 1 OF 2 - ARGENTINE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

PY240038

BUENOS AIRES DOMESTIC SERVICE IN SPANISH 0000 UMT 24 DEC 81

((SPEECH BY ARGENTINE PRESIDENT GEN LEOPOLDO FORTUNATO GALTIERI FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN BUENOS AIRES ON 23 DECEMBER - PRESUMABLY LIVE))

((TEXT)) ON THIS FIRST CONTACT I AM MAKING WITH MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATION I WILL BE BRIEF AND WILL TRY TO GET TO THE POINT; I KNOW THAT THE TIME FOR WORDS AND PROMISES IS GONE, I ALSO KNOW THAT WORDS HAVE LOST THEIR FORCE AND POWER TO PERSUADE; THIS IS A TIME FOR FIRNESS AND ACTION,

FOR THIS REASON, IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO MAKE KNOWN TODAY THE MORAL GUIDELINES AND THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH BOTH MY ADMINISTRATION AND THAT OF THOSE MEN WHO, WITH A GREAT SPIRIT OF SERVICE AND SELF-DENIAL, ARE ACCOMPANYING ME WILL BE BASED,

WE HAVE COME TO THE GOVERNMENT WITH CLEAN HANDS AND WITHOUT COMMITMENTS OF ANY KIND; NO SECTOR, INTERESTS OR INDIVIDUAL - WHETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT - WILL CAUSE US TO DEPART FROM OUR COURSE AND FROM OUR CLEAR-CUT LINE OF CONDUCT; WE ARE NOT ASKING THE PEOPLE TO IMMEDIATELY GIVE US THEIR CONFIDENCE AND CONSENSUS BECAUSE CONFIDENCE AND CONSENSUS ARE GAINED THROUGH EXAMPLE, COMERENCE AND EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT ACTIONS.

I AM AWARE THAT THE DECISION MADE BY THE MILITARY JUNTA SHOULD BE BACKED FROM NOW ON BY A CONSTANT, DYNAMIC ACTION WHICH MAY DRIVE THE NATION TOWARD ITS GLORIOUS DESTINY;



IT IS TRUE THAT AT THIS TIME OF UNCERTAINTY AND DOUBTS, IN WHICH  
WHAT IS QUESTIONED, THE HISTORIC DESTINY OF ARGENTINA LOOKS  
GLOOMY, WE HAVE HAD SO MANY FRUSTRATIONS AND SO MUCH TIME HAS BEEN  
WASTED IN RECENT DECADES THAT IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND  
THE NEED FOR A SHARED, ATTRACTIVE PLAN WHICH IS DEMANDED BY MANY  
WHO, HOWEVER, FAIL TO DEFINE IT WITH THE TRUTHFULNESS REQUIRED BY  
THE NATION.

IT WOULD BE ILLUSORY TO DENY THAT WE HAVE FALLEN INTO A CERTAIN  
IDLENESS, THAT WE SEEM TO BE IN A STATE OF APATHY, THAT THERE IS  
A LACK OF CREDIBILITY, BUT THIS REALITY ALONE CANNOT DISTORT OR  
CAST DOUBTS UPON THE PROCESS THAT BEGAN ON 24 MARCH 1976.

I KNOW THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF  
THE CITIZENRY, A BASIC PILLAR FOR THE TASK WHICH IS BEING UNDERTAKEN;  
JUST FOR HAVING WON THE WAR WAGED AGAINST MARXIST SUBVERSION, YET  
LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WE HAVE NOT FOUGHT AND DIED ONLY TO DECLARE  
ONE DAY THAT THE ARMED, SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES HAVE CONCLUDED  
THEIR MISSION AND ARE RETURNING TO OUR BARRACKS AND BASES WITHOUT  
HAVING ACHIEVED THE BASIC GOALS OUTLINED IN THE MAIN GUIDING  
DOCUMENTS OF THE NATIONAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS.

I WILL HAVE TO RULE, THAT IS, I WILL MAKE DECISIONS WHICH WILL  
HAVE TO GO AGAINST VESTED INTERESTS, THIS IS WHY THIS TASK--WHICH  
IS DIFFICULT BY ITSELF--WILL REQUIRE WILLPOWER AND DECISION, AND  
I HAVE BOTH, I WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT TO EXERCISE TRUE AUTHORITY  
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RESORT TO AUTHORITARIANISM, I WILL ALSO  
DEMONSTRATE THAT MY INTENTIONS ARE CRYSTAL-CLEAR SINCE I HAVE NO  
OTHER MOTIVE THAN THE DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION BESTOWED  
UPON ME.

TO RULE IS A TASK FOR MEN NOT FOR GODS, IF IN THIS TASK WE  
MAKE ERRORS, WE WILL CORRECT THEM WITH HUMILITY AND PRUDENCE,  
WE WILL DEMAND, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE WHO POINT TO OUR ERRORS DO SO  
THROUGH HONEST PROCEDURES, PATRIOTISM AND RESPECT, KEEPING IN MIND  
ONLY THE BEST, SUPREME, INVARIABLE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, THE



OF REFERENCE FOR THIS WILL BE THE ACTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL BE IN KEEPING WITH THE RULES OF HEALTHY COEXISTENCE, EVEN WHEN WE DISAGREE, AND I HOPE THAT ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WILL ALSO OBSERVE THESE RULES IN OUR DEALINGS WITH ONE ANOTHER,

I CHALLENGE THOSE WHO HOLD AND WILL HOLD GOVERNMENT POSTS TO CARRY OUT AN ACT OF ABSOLUTE DEDICATION AND SELF-DENIAL, WHICH ARE ACTUALLY THE QUALITIES OF MEN OF GOOD WILL, THUS I AM CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL DO SO,

SINCE THE PATH WE LEFT BEHIND WAS AN ARDUOUS ONE WHICH CAUSED MAJOR EROSIONS, WE CANNOT TAKE RISKS IN THE REMAINING PORTION AHEAD, THEREFORE, I DEMAND AN AUSTERE ACTION AND A CAREFUL USE OF THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES, WHICH ARE NOT TO BE USED TO MEET THE EXCESSIVE NEEDS OF A GIGANTIC BUREAUCRACY, WHICH IS NOT AT THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY AND WHICH WE MUST REORGANIZE,

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TAKE 2 OF 2--ARGENTINE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

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((TEXT)) IF WE WANT TO REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT APPARATUS, IF WE ARE WILLING TO AVOID AN ADMINISTRATIVE GROWTH WHICH DISTORTS THE GOVERNMENT'S TRUE GOAL, IT IS NOT TO MINIMIZE THE GOVERNMENT OR TO WEAKEN IT BUT TO STRENGTHEN IT, TO MAKE IT FUNCTION PROPERLY, EFFICIENTLY IN ITS SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS AT THE SERVICE OF THE NATION,

I HAVE ORDERED THAT A STUDY BEGUN LONG AGO TO TURN ENTERPRISES OVER TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR BE EXPEDITED. IN THIS RESPECT, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT I NEITHER ACCEPT NOR RECOGNIZE ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OR CONCEPTUAL REASONS WHICH COULD PREVENT THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN, THUS I HAVE IMPARTED INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT IN NO MORE THAN 120 DAYS A SPECIFIC, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR TURNING STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES OVER TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR BE SUBMITTED TO ME, THIS PLAN SHOULD NOT LIMIT ITSELF TO PERIPHERAL ENTERPRISES, IN KEEPING WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY, I ALSO ORDERED THAT A PROGRAM BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEXT 60 DAYS TO ELIMINATE NONESSENTIAL OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS, BE THEY PART OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, SELF-SUPPORTING OR DECENTRALIZED,

CONSEQUENTLY, I WANT TO STATE THAT THE PRINCIPLE WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PARTICIPATE ONLY IN THOSE ECONOMIC AREAS IN WHICH THE PRIVATE SECTOR CANNOT PARTICIPATE ENTAILS NOT ONLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT DO WHAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN AND SHOULD DO, BUT ALSO THAT THE LATTER SHOULD NOT TURN TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR SOLUTIONS WHICH IT SHOULD FIND ITSELF; THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE NECESSARY SPIRIT OF GREATNESS WHICH WILL MARK OUR



ACTION, WHICH WILL PROMOTE THE PREVALANCE OF THE COMMON GOOD ABOVE SECTARIAN INTERESTS AND WHICH WILL RESULT IN OUR INCREASINGLY GAINING, ON SOLID GROUND, THE CONFIDENCE I MENTIONED EARLIER, WITHOUT WHICH NO FAR-REACHING ACHIEVEMENT CAN BE POSSIBLE,

THE NECESSARY EFFORTS WILL BE SHARED AND CONFRONTED BY THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR REAL ABILITIES, ALWAYS WITH A JUST, RATIONAL AND BALANCED MANNER AND WITH A PROFOUND HUMAN SENSE, OUR OBJECTIVE IS ORIENTED TOWARD THE GENUINE REACTIVATION OF THE SOURCES OF WORK SO THAT IN THIS BLESSED LAND THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WILL FEEL FULLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE DESTINY OF THE FATHERLAND,

HARSH MEASURES OF AUSTERITY WILL BE ENFORCED IN ALL AREAS AND ENTERPRISES LINKED TO THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL AND SELF-SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AS PRECISE INDICATORS OF THIS CRITERION, THE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES HAVE DECIDED AND ORDERED THAT OUR SALARIES, AND ALL THAT OUR SALARIES ENTAIL, DURING 1982 STAY FROZEN; AT THE SAME TIME AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATION, I ORDER THAT MY SALARY AS PRESIDENT BE REIMBURSED TO THE TREASURY AND THAT THE EXPENDITURES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM AND BE SUBJECT TO STRICT CONTROL;

I WILL NOT TOLERATE EXCESSES OF ANY TYPE, THEREFORE, THIS WILL BECOME AN INCORRUPTIBLE LINE OF CONDUCT FOR EVERY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE,

WE WILL TRY TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER A HAPPY SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE WILL ALSO TRY TO ARRIVE AT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING, WHICH WE HAVE NOT HAD FOR A LONG TIME AND WHICH IS A BASIC CONDITION IN ANY REPUBLICAN SYSTEM, WE WILL CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL ACTIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE INSTITUTIONAL NORMALIZATION OF THE NATION, WE WILL DESIGN AND PUT INTO OPERATION AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM CULTURALLY ORIENTED TOWARD HUMANE AND ARGENTINE PRINCIPLES AND WITH DEFINITE CHARACTERISTICS OF A METHOD OF EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM, ALL OF THIS WILL BE DONE WITH THE PURPOSE OF CONTRIBUTING TO MATERIALIZE THE



HISTORIC GOAL OF THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL REORGANIZATION,  
REGARDING FOREIGN POLICY, I BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO POINT OUT  
THAT THE ARGENTINE SITUATION IN THE WORLD IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH  
AMBIGUOUS OR UNDEFINED POSITIONS--WHICH CAN WEAKEN OUR WESTERN  
ROOTS--OR WITH IDEOLOGICAL AFFAIRS OR FLIRTATIONS WHICH DISTORT  
THE PERMANENT INTERESTS OF THE NATION, THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT  
MEAN YIELDING EVEN AN INCH OF OUR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF SELF-  
DETERMINATION,

FEELING ASSURED THAT I CAN COUNT ON THE NECESSARY MORAL AND  
MATERIAL FORCES AND ON THE SPIRIT OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE  
PARTICULARLY UNDER ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DEMAND THAT ALL MEN  
AND WOMEN--WHO HAVE NOT BEEN CONSULTED FOR MY DESIGNATION--AND  
ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG, INCLUDING MY CHILDREN AND YOURS, TAKE ON THE  
NATIONAL FLAG WHICH IN THE GREAT MOMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC WAS THE  
KEY THAT LEAD US TO VICTORY,

A FEW HOURS FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT FESTIVITY OF CHRISTIANITY  
AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE TO MY  
COUNTRYMEN THAT I FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS MOMENT AND SITUATION,  
THEREFORE, UNDER THIS CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH IS APPROPRIATE TO RENEW  
MY HOPE, I ASK GOD THAT THIS BE FOR ALL OF US THE PATH OF FINAL  
TRUTH THAT WILL PERMIT US TO MAKE A REALITY OF WHAT TODAY IS MY  
PROFOUND WISH OF PEACE AND HAPPINESS,

I COMMIT MY DIGNITY AS A CITIZEN AND MY PRIDE AS AN ARGENTINE  
SOLDIER TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOOD NIGHT,

(ENDALL) DLG/RHL/REID/NL 240134 DEC

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