

Arw 040/325/3

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No Chase (23) (2)

This is presumably the article Hugh O'Shaughnessy referred to. I would guess it reflects fairly high-level briefing by the MFA & reinforces our (view) that New York will be tough. The concept of an invasion for the good of the Islanders is bizarre, but it might be the sort of self-justification which would appeal to the Argentines.

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UNCLASSIFIED

TELELETTER

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TO :

FOI

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FILE/REF :

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DATE : 3 FEBRUARY 1982

FOLLOWING FOR :

C O BRIGHT ESQ, SAND, FOI

COPY (BY 340) :

H W BRIDGOTT ESQ, PORT STANLEY

FROM :

M HICKSON, BRITISH EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

FALKLANDS:ARTICLE IN LA PRENSA

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE BY THE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED JOURNALIST IGLESIAS ROUCO WHICH APPEARED IN LA PRENSA ON 24 JANUARY UNDER THE HEADING QUOTE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFENSIVE UNQUOTE. BEGINS:

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY PRESENT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH A SERIES OF CONDITIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE MALVINAS, AND IF LONDON DOES NOT ACCEPT THEM BUENOS AIRES WILL IMMEDIATELY BREAK OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THESE CONDITIONS, WHICH APPARENTLY ARE STILL IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATION, WILL BE QUOTE FIRM AND CLEAR UNQUOTE, AND WILL SET VERY PRECISE TIME LIMITS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND THE FINAL RETURN OF THE ISLANDS TO ARGENTINA, A PROPOSITION WHICH GREAT BRITAIN WILL HAVE TO RECOGNISE EXPLICITLY IN ADVANCE SEMI COLON THEY WILL ALSO ESTABLISH THE ORDER OF SUBJECTS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE TALKS AND, LOGICALLY, ALSO THE ORDER OF THOSE STAGES THEMSELVES.

BEARDY BEAR TAKEN CONCERNING THE BEAGLE CHANNEL, WHICH HAVE JUST CRYSTALISED IN THE REPLACEMENT OF MONCAYO BY ORTIZ DE ROZAS, THE RENOVATION OF THE 1979 TREATY, AND THE DESPATCH OF A DOCUMENT TO THE VATICAN SETTING OUT ARGENTINA'S MINIMUM ASPIRATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION. THESE ASPIRATIONS MAY BE SUMMARISED AS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SO-CALLED BI-OCEANIC PRINCIPLE, COMPLETE AND ENTIRE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ATLANTIC COAST AND IN THE QUOTE SEA OF FOLK UNQUOTE, AND HER TANGIBLE PRESENCE ON THE ISLANDS IN THE BEAGLE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD GIVE HER JURISDICTIONAL SECURITY IN JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, THAT IS TO SAY, OVER AT LEAST 100 MILES TO SEA.

OBVIOUSLY, BY CONNECTING THE MALVINAS SITUATION WITH THAT OF THE BEAGLE, THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE READY TO CARRY FORWARD AN AMBITIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH WOULD ASSURE THE COUNTRY OF A RELEVANT ROLE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AS MUCH IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS IN GEO-POLITICAL AND MILITARY ONES. THE FACT THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE INITIATED A KIND OF DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC REVEALS THAT THIS PLAN IS BEING TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

LONDON'S SYSTEMATICALLY DILATORY ATTITUDE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED NO SATISFACTION FOR ARGENTINA'S JUST CLAIMS, WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, BUT ALSO HAS FAILED TO SATISFY THE NEED FOR WESTERN CONCERNATION IN THE DEFENCE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND ACCESS ROUTES TO THE SOUTH POLE, WHICH ARE TODAY THE OBJECT OF INCESSANT SOVIET PENETRATION. THUS, IN TABLING CONDITIONS AND DEFINITE TIME LIMITS TO OVERCOME THE QUOTE IMPASSE UNQUOTE, BUENOS AIRES IS APPARENTLY SEEKING SOMETHING MORE THAN THE MERE RECOVERY OF A PORTION OF HER SOVEREIGNTY. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, WASHINGTON UNQUOTE IT IN THIS WAY, AND HENCE THE SUPPORT WHICH IT HAS REPORTERLY PROMISED FOR QUOTE ANY ACTION UNQUOTE LEADING TO RECOVERY OF THE ISLANDS, NOT EXCLUDING MILITARY ACTION.

The Argentines cannot really believe this?

LETTERS WHICH AFFAIRS, WILL BE VISITING BUENOS AIRES, AND
UNDOUBTEDLY THIS QUESTION WILL TAKE A PROMINENT PLACE IN HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH DR COSTA MENDEZ. AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED,
IT IS BELIEVED IN BOTH THE USA AND IN EUROPE THAT IF THE FORTHCOMING
ARGENTINE ATTEMPT TO QUOTE CLARIFY UNQUOTE THE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH LONDON FAILS, BUENOS AIRES WILL RECOVER THE ISLANDS BY FORCE
THIS YEAR. NATURALLY, SILENCE IS BEING MAINTAINED HERE, BUT
ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT HAVE FORESEEN THIS ALTERNATIVE,
A MILITARY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE CANNOT BE RULED OUT WHEN
SOVEREIGNTY IS AT STAKE. MOREOVER, IT IS CALCULATED THAT SUCH AN
OPERATION WILL BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE IN VIEW OF THE JOINT MILITARY
RESOURCES OF THE ISLANDS (TODAY NOT MUCH MORE THAN BR ARMED MEN),
AND OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH IT COULD BRING FOR THE ISLANDERS,
SINCE BUENOS AIRES IS APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY ISLANDERS
AND TO COMPENSATE THEM GENEROUSLY FOR ANY ECONOMIC INCONVENIENCE
WHICH THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BRING. AS FOR GREAT
BRITAIN, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MIGHT BE TEMPORARILY
FROZEN UNQUOTE FOR A TIME, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF WESTERN STRATEGY
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE FOR LONG.
THE MALVINAS AND THE BEAGLE, PERHAPS WITH JOINT BASES THANKS TO A
SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY, WOULD THUS BECOME THE TWO KEY POINTS IN THE
DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE OF THE REGION.

BUT THE PLANS FOR THE BEAGLE AND THE MALVINAS, ACCORDING TO OUR
SOURCES, WILL NOT IMPEDE ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE QUOTE
NON-ALIGNED UNQUOTE GROUP OF COUNTRIES. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ALREADY STARTED TO ANALYSE THIS SUBJECT, AND
ONLY SECOND OR THIRD RANK OFFICIALS WILL BE SENT TO FORTHCOMING
MEETINGS OF THE GROUP. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WILL TAKE
PLACE BEFORE THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE, PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER.
NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS STILL STRONG RESISTANCE TO THIS PLAN IN
CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE QUOTE PROCESO UNQUOTE.

PORT STANLEY

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27/1
CCBury
A Hendersons piece of
work which will appeal
to the Argentines.