

RESTRICTED

REC'D
24 FEB 1982

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OPS 253

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FM BUENOS AIRES 23/1630Z FEB 82
 TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 21 OF 23 FEBRUARY 1982
 INFO ROUTINE FCO

16 YOUR TELNO 17 : DAVIDOFF

1. DAVIDOFF CALLED ON HICKSON THIS MORNING. HE WAS EMPHATIC THAT THE QUOTE CAIMAN UNQUOTE HAS NO REPEAT NO AUTHORITY FROM HIM OR THE BANCO JUNCAL TO REMOVE ANY EQUIPMENT FROM SOUTH GEORGIA. THE CAIMAN APPARENTLY OFFERED ITS SERVICES TO DAVIDOFF TO TAKE HIM TO SOUTH GEORGIA IN DECEMBER BUT DAVIDOFF DECLINED. HE BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE NOW TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ENTERPRISE TO TRY TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNT, AND THREATENS TO PROSECUTE THE CAPTAIN IF HE COMES TO ARGENTINA. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE CAIMAN WAS LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN SLAUGHTER OF LOCAL WILD LIFE FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

2. WE ARE SEEKING VERIFICATION THAT THE BANCO JUNCAL IS INDEED UNCONNECTED WITH THE CAIMAN, BUT HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT IT. MEANWHILE, WE ADVISE THAT MARCHASSI CONTINUE TO BE REFUSED PERMISSION TO TAKE ANYTHING AWAY.

3. DAVIDOFF APOLOGISED FOR THE PROBLEM THAT HIS VISIT ON THE ALMIRANTE IRIZAR HAD CAUSED IN DECEMBER, ALTHOUGH HE PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE THAT IT HAD CAUSED TROUBLE. HE SAID HIS VISIT HAD BEEN VERY BRIEF (FOUR HOURS ONLY), WHICH WAS WHY HE HAD NOT ON THAT OCCASION CONTACTED THE BASE COMMANDER. HE SAID HE NOW INTENDED TO RETURN TO SOUTH GEORGIA ON ABOUT 10 MARCH WITH A GROUP OF SOME 30 PEOPLE TO SALVAGE THE EQUIPMENT. HE EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD STAY FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, ARRIVING ON EITHER THE ISLA DE LOS ESTADOS OR THE BAHIA BUEN SUCESO (BOTH ARGENTINE STN VESSELS), AND THAT THESE SHIPS WOULD BE USED TO REMOVE THE EQUIPMENT AT APPROXIMATELY FORTY DAY INTERVALS. HICKSON STRESSED TO HIM THE NEED FOR THE APPROPRIATE FORMALITIES TO BE COMPLIED WITH. HE SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS NOT TO CREATE ANY DIFFICULTIES ON THIS OCCASION, AND ASKED FOR FULL INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW HE SHOULD PROCEED IN RESPECT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. GRATEFUL FOR ADVICE ON THIS POINT.

WILLIAMS

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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