

CHILE.

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 1526 OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1982  
INFO SANTIAGO.

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SENOR ROJAS CALLED ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 30 SEPTEMBER.  
THE MEETING LASTED HALF AN HOUR.

2.

MR PYM

DESCRIBED THE EFFORTS WE WERE MAKING TO NORMALISE RELATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINES (WHICH HAD HAD LITTLE SUCCESS SO FAR) AND EXPLAINED WHY THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF OUR ACCEPTING RESOLUTIONS ABOUT NEGOTIATING WITH ARGENTINA IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. ROJAS SAID THAT CHILEAN CO-SPONSORSHIP FOR LANGUAGE INVITING PARTIES TO FIND A SOLUTION BY PEACEFUL MEANS MEANT NO MORE THAN JUST THAT. CHILE ENTIRELY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL END TO HOSTILITIES MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO NEGOTIATE NOW OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. MR PYM ASKED WHAT WAS ROJAS'S IMPRESSION OF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. ROJAS SAID THAT ARGENTINA WAS NOW UNDERGOING A SERIOUS CRISIS OF DIRECTION REQUIRING MORE THAN JUST A CHANGE AT THE TOP. WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING IN THE ARMED FORCES PARALLELED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. WITH THE RETURN TO MULTI-PARTY RULE, THE SAME OLD FACES FROM 10 YEARS BACK WERE RETURNING TO POLITICAL LIFE: THEY HAD BEEN POLITICALLY NEGLIGENT BEFORE AND WERE LIKELY TO DAMAGE THEIR COUNTRY AGAIN. ALL THIS WAS BAD FOR CHILE.

*Passages deleted and temporarily retained under Section 3(4).*

*Wayland  
5 August 2014*



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5. MR PYM REFERRED TO MR REES'S VISIT AND OUR DESIRE TO INCREASE TRADE WITH CHILE; WE WERE DOING WHAT WE COULD TO HELP OVER CHILE'S REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ROJAS EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION OF MR REES'S VISIT. CHILE WAS SEEKING BRITISH MILITARY EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OF HER RESPECT FOR BRITISH TECHNOLOGY. HE RECALLED THE HISTORY OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO; THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN CONE OF LATIN AMERICA WAS NOW MORE DANGEROUS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1978, AND CHILE HAD TO IMPROVE HER MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. THE US SHOULD WITHHOLD ARMS EITHER FROM BOTH CHILE AND ARGENTINA, OR FROM NEITHER; TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD DAMAGE THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE AREA.

6. MR PYM COMMENTED THAT THE EC WAS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ITS ATTITUDE TO CHILE, WHICH HAD BEEN DETERMINED BY CONCERN OVER HER HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ATMOSPHERE HAD IMPROVED SOMEWHAT. WE WERE PLAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE PART. ROJAS SAID THAT IT WAS HIGH TIME THAT EUROPE RETURNED TO AN IMPARTIAL ATTITUDE TO CHILE, WHICH HAD PRESERVED AN UNBROKEN COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY. CHILE'S PRESERVATION FROM THE CLUTCHES OF MARXISM HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH A MILITARY COUP BUT BY AN ACT OF SELF-LIMITATION ON THE PART OF CIVILIANS. CHILE'S ESCAPE HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED PAINLESSLY; A PRICE HAD BEEN PAID IN HUMAN LIFE AND IN SOME QUOTE EXCESSES UNQUOTE, ALTHOUGH THESE HAD BEEN UNAVOIDABLE. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW WANTED WAS TO REBUILD CHILEAN DEMOCRACY WITHOUT THE WEAKNESSES WHICH HAD LED THE LAST CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT INTO CRISIS.

7. IN CONCLUSION, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT WE WANTED CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ALL OF LATIN AMERICA; HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN TOO SERIOUSLY SET BACK BY RECENT EVENTS. ROJAS SAID THAT AS FAR AS CHILE WAS CONCERNED THEY HAD NOT BEEN SET BACK AT ALL.

THOMSON

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