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ARGENTINA

SECRETO (*)

POITICA
INFORMACIONES
SUR
DEL EJERCITO
MARINA
AERONAUTICA

NUMERO GENERAL DE RECEPCION 17673.-

ORIGEN: LONDRES

Fecha y hora recepción D.T.: DIA 25 MES MARZO HORA 1600

Fecha y hora tramitado D.C.: DIA 25 MES MARZO HORA 1605

Cable N° 662.-

A CONTINUACION TRANSCRIBO TEXTO AUDICION BBC RADIO FOUR, PRO GRAMA "TODAY", DIA DE LA FECHA:

"PRESENTER:

A BRITISH NAVY SHIP, HMS ENDURANCE, IS TODAY STANDING BY TO MOVE A GROUP OF ARGENTINIANS WHO HAVE LANDED ON SOUTH GEORGIA, ONE OF THE BRITISH FALKLAND ISLANDS. THE ARGENTINIANS ARE SAID TO BE SCRAP-METAL DEALERS, WHICH HAS INSPIRED THE FINANCIAL TIMES' CARTOONIST WITH MEMORIES OF THE DEFENCE CUTS TO HAVE A SAILOR ON BOARD HMS ENDURANCE OBSERVING TO A COLLEAGUE: 'WE AREN'T GOING AS A GUN-BOAT, THE ARGENTINIANS HAVE JUST BOUGHT US FOR SCRAP.'

BUT THE RAISING OF THE ARGENTINIAN FLAG ON BRITISH TERRITORY IS BEING TREATED SERIOUSLY ENOUGH BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS, AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, LORD CARRINGTON, IS BEING PRESSED TO TAKE TOUGH ACTION AGAINST THE INTRUDERS.

A REPORT BY STEPHEN CAPE.

STEPHEN CAPE:

IT SEEMS THE CO-CALLED INVADERS ARRIVED ON AN ARGENTINIAN NAVY TRANSPORT SHIP WHICH HAD BEEN HIRED BY A SCRAP-METAL DEALER TO DISMANTLE AN OLD WHALING STATION. THE COMPANY HAD BEEN AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE JOB BY AN EDINBURGH-BASED FIRM, CHRISTIAN SALVASON, WHO SAID EVERYTHING WAS IN ORDER. BUT REPORTS FROM THE FALKLANDS SAY THE SALVAGEMEN BROKE THE LAW BY FAILING TO REPORT TO IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, CARRYING GUNS ONTO GEORGIA AND HOISTING THE ARGENTINIAN FLAG. ISLANDERS, ACCORDING TO FALKLANDS' CHIEF CONSTABLE, COLONEL RONALD LAMB (PHONETIC), ARE MORE AMUSED THAN WORRIED BY THE AFFAIR. ON A POOR RADIO LINK, HE EXPLAINED MORE.

COLONEL RONALD LAMB:

THE WHOLE THING'S BECOME QUITE OUT OF PROPORTION, EXAGGERATED STORIES AND SO ON, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE MUCH GREATER EXCITEMENT IN EUROPE AND ON THE MAINLAND OF SOUTH AMERICA. THAN THERE IS HERE. THERE WAS A LOT OF TALK OF SHOTS BEING FIRED, BUT WHEN THIS WAS LOOKED INTO, IT SEEMS THAT THE SHOTS WERE FIRED AT A REINDEER, AND SO IT WAS AS, AS INNOCENT AS THAT.

STEPHEN CAPE:

ARE THESE PEOPLE IN FACT, ER, LEAVING THE ISLAND?

COLONEL RONALD LAMB:

WELL I THINK THEY'RE BEING GIVEN SO MANY HOURS TO LEAVE, BUT OF COURSE THE SHIP THAT DISEMBARKED THEM IS NO LONGER LYING THERE.

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ANEXO 115

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SECRETO (*)

NUMERO GENERAL DE RECEPCION

ORIGEN: LONDRES

Fecha y hora recepción D.T.: DIA

MES

HORA

Fecha y hora tramitado D.C.: DIA

MES

HORA

Cable N° 662.-

PAGINA II.

STEPHEN CAPE:
NOW THE ROYAL NAVY HAS SENT A SURVEY SHIP IN: HAS IT ARRIVED YET?

COLONEL RONALD LAMB:
THERE IS A ROYAL NAVAL VESSEL IN OUR WATERS.
MY INFORMATION IS THAT THEY ARE TAKING SUITABLE STEPS, BUT I DON'T FEEL THAT I OUGHT TO COMMENT ON WHAT THE ROYAL NAVY ARE DOING.

STEPHEN CAPE:
IN FACT THE COLONEL PLAYED DOWN THE WHOLE INCIDENT. EVEN A REPORT THAT ISLANDERS MARCHED ANGRILY ON THE OFFICES OF THE ARGENTINE AIRLINE AND HOISTED THE FALKLAND FLAG WITH ITS UNICORN, JACK AND SHEEP EMBLEM WERE DISCOUNTED. IT WAS A BIT OF A JOKE, HE SAID. BUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENT STORY FROM PETER HERKMAN, EDITOR OF THE BBC'S 'PEBBLE MILL AND ONE' PROGRAMME. HE SPENT SOME TIME IN THE FALKLANDS PRODUCING A PROGRAMME, AND LAST NIGHT HE CONTACTED A FRIEND IN THE GOVERNMENT TO SOUND THEM OUT.

PETER HERKMAN:
HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A STRONG SENSE OF RELIEF THAT HAD ENDURANCE OR SOME SORT OF NAVAL PRESENCE WAS STILL IN THE AREA AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, AND THAT THIS SITUATION HADN'T DEVELOPED IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS' TIME WHEN ENDURANCE HAD LEFT FOR THE LAST TIME. YOU'VE GOT TO REALISE THAT, YOU KNOW, THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF ISLAND SUSPICION ABOUT ARGENTINIAN INTENTIONS AT THE MOMENT, BECAUSE ARGENTINA'S MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY WANT TO OCCUPY THE ISLAND AND TO GAIN OWNERSHIP OF THEM, HAVING CLAIMED THEIR RIGHTS TO THEM FOR SORT OF HAHY, HAHY GENERATIONS.

STEPHEN CAPE:
HOW DO ISLANDERS, DO YOU THINK, REALLY FEEL ABOUT, ER, WHAT'S HAPPENED?

PETER HERKMAN:
I THINK THEY ARE NERVOUS BECAUSE ONLY TEN DAYS AGO ARGENTINA MADE IT CLEAR YET AGAIN THAT THEY HAD EVERY INTENTION OF CLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF THE ISLANDS. I THINK THEY HAVE BEEN SITTING BACK SINCE THEN WAITING FOR SOME SORT OF ARGENTINE ACTION, AND I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BELIEVE THAT THIS HAS BEEN KIND OF A BIT OF PRESSURE TO TEST BRITAIN'S INTENTION FOR THE AREA AND SEE HOW COMMITTED BRITAIN IS TO PROTECTING ITS ISLANDS, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE, YOU KNOW, SOUTH GEORGIA MAY BE A FAR OLD WAY FROM THE FALKLANDS THEMSELVES.

(*) Toda documentación correspondiente a cables cifrados es de carácter SECRETO

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PAGINA III.

STEPHEN CAPE:

HERE IN BRITAIN THERE'S BEEN A CALL FOR A FULL ENQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT AND MORE THAN A HUNDRED MPS ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN A MOTION DEMANDING THE RETENTION OF A ROYAL NAVY FORCE BIG ENOUGH TO WARD OFF AN ARGENTINIAN ATTACK. ONLY LAST WEEK THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IT WAS WITHDRAWING ITS PATROL SHIP, HMS ENDURANCE, BECAUSE OF SPENDING CUTS. BUT LORD SHACKLETON, EXPLORER, EX MINISTER AND A MEMBER OF THE SOUTHWEST ATLANTIC GROUP, THINKS THAT'S AN UNWISE MOVE.

LORD SHACKLETON:

I THINK THE PRESENCE OF A ROYAL NAVAL SHIP FLYING THE WHITE ENSIGN DOES CARRY A DEGREE OF SOVEREIGNTY BEHIND IT WHICH MAKES CLEAR THAT ANY INTERVENTION, ER, DOES IN FACT INVOLVE A VERY SERIOUS INFRINGEMENT, AS WE WOULD SEE IT, OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. ER, MILITARILY, OF COURSE, HMS ENDURANCE, AS WE KNOW - I'VE SAILED ON HER - IT A VERY NICE, IT'S AN OLD DAN SHIP, SHE'S GOT MANY, INCIDENTALLY SHE'S GOT MANY YEARS LIFE IN FRONT OF HER, AND SHE'S THE ONE SHIP WE'VE GOT WHICH CAN GO INTO ICY WATERS - AND I'M NOT JUST TALKING OF SOUTH GEORGIA, WHICH IS RELATIVELY FAR NORTH, BUT OTHER AREAS.

MOLTEN I

C
GAP

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