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DESK OFFICER REGISTRY INDEX Action Taken

DESKBY 312130Z UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, PORT STANLEY, BUENOS AIRES

FM FCO 312030Z MARCH 82

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 179 OF 31 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, WASHINGTON AND PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, CINC FLEET, AND F OF F 1(EMBARKED)

TELECON GOULDING/FEARN: SOUTH GEORGIA: ARGENTINE ACTION IN UN 1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM YOU THAT ARGENTINE INTENTION MAY NOT NOW BE TO SEEK AN EMERGENCY DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL BUT TO PUT ROUND AN INFORMATIVE NOTE TO SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS GIVING THEIR VERSION OF EVENTS IN SOUTH GEORGIA AND DRAWING ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF BRITISH NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

- 2. WE AGREE THAT, IF THE ARGENTINES TAKE THIS ACTION, YOU SHOULD ALSO CIRCULATE A NOTE. FOR THIS YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING.
- 3. HISTORY OF EVENTS. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON MY TELMO 44 TO BRASILIA FOR SUMMARY OF EVENTS UNTIL 25 MARCH. ON 25 MARCH AN ARGENTINE NAVAL TRANSPORT VESSEL ARRIVED AT LEITH HARBOUR TO DELIVER FURTHER SUPPLIES TO THE MEN ASHORE. OUR AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES SOUGHT AN EARLY RESPONSE FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO OUR PREVIOUS REQUESTS THAT THEY SHOULD ARRANGE FOR THE MEM'S DEPARTURE. THIS REQUEST REFUSED. OUR AMBASSADOR MAKES CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINES THAT WE WISHED TO DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND PROPOSED THAT IF THE PARTY REQUEST THE PROPER AUTHORISATION FROM THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES AT GRYTVIKEN THIS WOULD BE GIVEN. NO IMMEDIATE REPLY FROM

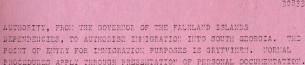


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ARGENTINES BUT ON 26 MARCH THEY ISSUE A PRESS STATEMENT PROTECTION BY THE ARGENTIME GOVERNMENT. ARGENTIME PRESS REPORTS THAT ARGENTINE MAVAL VESSELS HAVE BEEN ORDERED INTO THE APEA. ON 28 MARCH, ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER SENDS MESSAGE TO SECRETARY OF STATE REJECTING PROPOSAL TO REGULARISE PRESENCE IN SOUTH GEORGIA BUT PRESSING FOR DISCUSSION NOT ONLY OF THIS ISSUE BUT ALSO OF WIDER SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE. ON 30 MARCH, PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS IN BOTH HOUSES (TEXT AVAILABLE TO YOU IN VERBATINE) MAKING CLEAR THAT WE HAD NO WISH TO INTERFERE WITH A STRAIGHT-FORWARD CONTRACT BUT THAT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT AN ILLEGAL UNAUTHORISED PRESENCE ON BRITISH TERRETORY. THE STATEMENT BUENOS AIRES TO PROPOSE TO ARGENTINE FOREIGN MIMISTER THAT A SENIOR FCO OFFICIAL VISIT BUENOS AIRES TO DISCUSS A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, ADDING THAT THE DEFUSING OF THIS INCIDENT WOULD HELP PREPARE THE WAY FOR A RESUMPTION OF A DIALOGUE ON THE BROADE? SOVEREIGHTY DISPUTE.

- 4. ON HMS ENDURANCE'S ROLE, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT HMS ENDURANCE HAS PLAYED NO ACTIVE PART. IF ARGUNTINE MOTE CLAIMS THAT HE THREATENED TO USE HMS ENDURANCE TO PENOVE THE MEN BY FORCE, YOU SHOULD BRING OUT THAT ANY SUCH ACTION HAS SEEN ONLY AS A LAST RESORT IF THE ARGENTINES PAILED THEMSELVES TO ARRANGE FOR THE MEM'S DEPARTURE OR TO REGULARISE THEIR POSITION. NO SUCH ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN: NOR HAS HMS ENDURANCE APPROACHED THE ARGENTIME PARTY AT LETTH. IT HAS BEEN STANDING BY SINCE 24 MARCH AMAY FROM LEITH HARBOUR.
- 5. SOVEREIGNTY POSITION ON SOUTH GEORGIA. SOUTH GEORGIA
 DISCOVERED BY CAPTAIN COOK IN 1775 AND CLAIMED FOR HMG. A BRITISH
 GOVERNMENT STATION ON SOUTH GEORGIA HAS EXISTED SINCE 1909 AND
 AT PRESENT A BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY BASE PROVIDES ALL-THE-YEARROUND BRITISH PRESENCE. ARGENTINE CLAIM DATES FROM 127 AND IS
 PRESUMABLY BASED ON PROXIMITY (SIC) TO ARGENTINE MAINLAND.
 6. INMIGRATION PROCEDURES FOR SOUTH GEORGIA. THE SENIOR
 OFFICIAL OF THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY DASE AT GRYTVIKEN HAS



- 7. THE ARGENTINES HAVE ASSERTED THAT ENTRY INTO SOUTH GEORGIA FOR ARGENTINES IS REGULATED BY THE 1971 UK/ARGENTINA COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT. THIS PROVIDES INTER ALLA FOR ARGENTINES AND FARMAND ISLANDERS TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE ISLANDS USING A DOCUMENT KNOWN AS A WHITE CARD INSTEAD OF A PASSPORT. HOWEVER, COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT APPLIES ONLY TO THE FALMLAND ISLANDS WHERE IN ANY CASE HOLDERS OF WHITE CARDS HAVE TO OBSERVE MORNAL INHIGRATION PROCEDURES.
- 8. MOVEMENT OF UK MARSHIPS. THE ONLY RW VESSEL IN THE AREA IS HAD ENDURANCE, UNION IS A LIGHTLY-ARRED ICE-PATROL VESSEL. ITS FUNCTION IS TO PROVIDE AM OFFICIAL BRITISH NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND BRITISH AMTARCTIC TERRITORY, TO CARRY OUT SCIENTIFIC WORK AND TO SUPPLY AMP ROTATE PRESONNEL AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC STATIOMS. IT REMAINS IN THE AREA FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS IN EACH YEAR.
- 9. IF ARGENTINE NOTE REFERS TO REPORTED DEPLOYMENT OF BRITISH SUBMARINES, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT, APART FROM HEM EMPURATOR, THE ONLY OTHER HAVAL VESSELS IN THE AREA APPEAR TO BE NUMBEROUS ELEMENTS OF THE ARGENTINE MAYY. (PRESS REPORTS ARE THAT THESE INCLUDE CONVETTES, DESTROYERS AND AN AIRCRAFT CARRIEF).

CARRINGTON

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