

GRS 300

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 021450Z APR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1077 OF 2 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, SANTIAGO, MONTEVIDEO, BRASILIA,
PARIS, BONN AND UKMIS NEW YORK

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ALDO 50/304/1
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY

CLERK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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TOP SECRET
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(9)
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MY TELNO 1067 (NOT TO ALL): FALKLANDS

1. ALTHOUGH THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE U S ATTITUDE AND ACTION HAS BEEN REPORTED ORALLY I THINK I SHOULD PLACE IT ON RECORD IN THIS TELEGRAM.

2. EARLY YESTERDAY EVENING THE U S PRESIDENT TRIED TO TELEPHONE THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT BUT THE LATTER REFUSED TO TAKE THE CALL. THE AMERICANS PERSISTED AND PRESIDENT REAGAN EVENTUALLY SPOKE TO HIM. HIS WORDS AND TONE WERE FORCEFUL, URGING THE ARGENTINIANS NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE FALKLANDS. HE LEFT GALTIERI IN NO DOUBT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTION UPON ARGENTINE/U S RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH WOULD TREAT IT AS A CASUS BELLI. THE AMERICANS WERE READY TO PROVIDE GOOD OFFICES TO HELP IN ANY WAY. HE WAS PREPARED TO SEND VICE PRESIDENT BUSH IMMEDIATELY TO BUENOS AIRES TO ASSIST IN A SOLUTION. HAIG TOLD ME THAT THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT HAD REJECTED IT ALL EMPHATICALLY. THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN SENDING THE VICE PRESIDENT WHEN THIS WAS A MATTER OF COLONIALISM.

3. HAIG TOLD ME THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HE WERE READY TO DO ANYTHING THAT WE MIGHT WANT THEM TO DO IN THESE VERY DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT LOOKED TO THE AMERICANS AS THOUGH THE ARGENTINIANS WERE BENT ON AN INVASION AND THAT NOTHING WOULD STOP THEM. I SAID THAT I WOULD THINK ABOUT IT, AND CONSULT LONDON AND SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN. THE ONLY IMMEDIATE THOUGHT THAT OCCURRED TO ME WAS THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE READY, IMMEDIATELY THE ARGENTINE INVASION HAD TAKEN PLACE TO ISSUE A STRONG DENUNCIATION. HAIG SAID THERE WOULD BE NO DOUBT WHATEVER ABOUT THE U S READINESS TO DO THIS.

4. AFTER TALKING WITH LONDON I SPOKE AGAIN TO HAIG EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR U S SUPPORT AND REPEATING THE HOPE THAT THE U S WOULD COME OUT WITH A STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE ARGENTINE ACTION.

HENDERSON

FCO
SAND
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN:
FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

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