

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 050700Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUK

C O N F I D E N T I A L  
SIC A3A/A2M/19F (SICS INSERTED BY DCC)

CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 051100Z  
FM CANBERRA 050700Z APR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 134 OF 5 APRIL

YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 63 TO ANKARA AND MY TELEGRAM NO. 129 : FALKLANDS

THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER BEING IN TASMANIA, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS WAY BACK FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN THE COURSE OF 5 APRIL WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, ( WHO HAS INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER),

PAGE 2 RBDWC A0745 C O N F I D E N T I A L

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER,, TO EACH I EXPRESSED OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE AND TO THE CRISIS IN GENERAL: AND IN EACH CASE RECEIVED A WHOLLY SYMPATHETIC HEARING.

2. THE CRISIS WILL BE DISCUSSED !!BELOW THE LINE!! IN THE AUSTRALIAN CABINET, MEETING IN TASMANIA, ON 6 APRIL. WHILE ALTERNATIVES 5B AND 5C ARE NOT, OPTION 5A IN TUR IS OPEN TO THE AUSTRALIANS AND IS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED. ON THE ONE HAND, THE CABINET WILL WISH TO CONTINUE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH US. THEY WILL ALSO, I BELIEVE, HAVE BEFORE THEN A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES, WHICH I BELIEVE HE DISCUSSED WITH MR WILLIAMS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, THAT HE SHOULD MORE USEFULLY REMAIN IN BUENOS AIRES, INTER ALIA TO SUPERVISE THE WELFARE OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY THERE,. THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IS INCLINED TO THE LATTER ALTERNATIVE, NOT LEAST BECAUSE THE AUSTRALIAN

TRADITION IS NOT TO BREAK RELATIONS, BUT TO KEEP OPEN CHANNELS.

PAGE 3 RBDWC A0745 C O N F I D E N T I A L

HE HAS ASKED ME, HOWEVER, WHETHER I COULD LET HIM KNOW BEFORE CABINET TOMORROW WHETHER WE HAVE ANY PREFERENCE IN WHAT IS OF COURSE A WHOLLY AUSTRALIAN DECISION. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS

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BY 2300 YOUR TIME 5 APRIL.

THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTS THE ARGENTINIAN ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER AS HAVING BEEN !! SHAKEN !! BY MR FRASER'S STATEMENT AND TO HAVE SAID THAT THE AUSTRALIAN REACTION WAS ONE OF THE STRONGEST THEY HAD RECEIVED.

MASON

BTF

PAGE 4 RBDWC A0745 CONFIDENTIAL

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