

GRS 410

UNCLASSIFIED

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 325 OF 07 APRIL 1982

INFO PRIORITY BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG
ROME, UKREPBRUSSELS, ATHENS, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON.

FALKLANDS: FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED FOLLOWING THE MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON 7 APRIL:

" THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS INFORMED BY THE MINISTER
OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY THE
ARGENTINIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FROM
2 APRIL 1982.

THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED FRANCE'S HOSTILITY TO ALL FORMS
OF AGGRESSION, AND HER DESIRE TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR
INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS. IT EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT
IT WAS NECESSARY TO APPLY SCRUPULOUSLY THE SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION OF 3 APRIL WHICH ENVISAGED THE CESSATION OF ALL
HOSTILITIES, THE RETREAT OF ARGENTINE FORCES FROM THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS, AND A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THE DIFFERENCES,
RESPECTING THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CHARTER. IN THIS RESPECT THE COUNCIL DECLARED ITSELF
TO BE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE COUNCIL ALSO CONFIRMED THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE TIME
OF THE INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS TO PLACE AN EMBARGO ON
ANY DESPATCH OF ARMS, SPARE PARTS OR MUNITIONS TO ARGENTINA."

2. M. BEREGOVY, SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE ELYSEE, IS REPORTED AS
HAVING SPOKEN AS FOLLOWS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS MEETING. THE DECISION TO IMPOSE AN EMBARGO ON ARMS
DELIVERIES TO ARGENTINA HAD BEEN TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INVASION
AND APPLIED IN PARTICULAR TO CONTRACTS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING
FULFILLED CONCERNING AIRCRAFT AND ANTI-AIR MISSILES. ALL REPORTS
RELATING TO THE GRANTING OF A FRENCH LICENCE TO ARGENTINA TO BUILD
ARMOURED COMBAT VEHICLES WERE WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION. AN ARTICLE
PUBLISHED IN LE CANARD ENCHAINE OF 7 APRIL WHICH SAID THAT
ARGENTINA WAS GOING TO CONSTRUCT FROM 1984 ONE THOUSAND ARMOURED
VEHICLES UNDER LICENCE FROM PANHARD DID NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY.
NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA BEGUN IN 1979 HAD NOT BEEN CONCLUDED
AND NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

3. BEREGOVY WENT ON TO SAY THAT POLITICAL SOLIDARITY WITH
GREAT BRITAIN HAD BEEN CONFIRMED. AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDANCE
HAD TAKEN PLACE FOLLOWING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND MRS THATCHER. MRS THATCHER HAD THANKED
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND HAD WRITTEN TO HIM TO HIM UP TO
DATE ON THE BRITISH POSITION. THIS LETTER HAD BEEN RECEIVED ON
WEDNESDAY MORNING AND WAS BEING STUDIED.

FRETWELL.

FCO

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TREASURY

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