

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 160
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FM CANBERRA 080530Z APR 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 147 OF 8 APRIL

YOUR TELNO 102 : FALKLAND ISLANDS : WITHDRAWAL OF AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR

1. THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAISED WITH ME TODAY, 8 APRIL,
THE POINT PUT EARLIER (MY TELEGRAM NO 134) BY HIS OFFICIALS ABOUT
THE USEFULNESS OF HAVING THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES,
NOT SO MUCH TO LOOK AFTER BRITISH INTERESTS (TUR) BUT TO LOOK AFTER
THE ANGLO-SAXON COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY. WHEN HE SAW THE RETURNING
AMBASSADOR TOMORROW, MR STREET EXPECTED TO HEAR FROM HIM ARGUMENTS
IN FAVOUR OF HIS EARLY RETURN. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT SUCH ARGUMENTS
HAD CONSIDERABLE FORCE.

2. I TOLD MR STREET THAT I HAD PUT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE ARGUMENTS
TO WHICH HE REFERRED. BUT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT WE WOULD VERY MUCH
PREFER THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR NOT TO RETURN UNTIL THE CRUNCH
CAME, BY WHICH I MEANT AT THE EARLIEST THE ARRIVAL AND DEPLOYMENT OF
THE ROYAL NAVAL TASK FORCE ON THE SCENE AT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.
UNTIL THEN, WE WANTED TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM PRESSURE, BOTH MORAL AND
PHYSICAL, UPON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

3. MR STREET SAID THAT HE TOOK MY POINT, AND MY IMPRESSION IS THAT
HE WILL ACCEDE TO MY SUGGESTION.

MASON

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

FCO
S AM D
CABINET OFFICE

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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