

GRS 420  
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FM PARIS 221644Z APR 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 380 OF 22 APRIL

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N/T  
T.S  
19.6.84

YOUR TELNO 120: FALKLANDS

1. FOUQUET, HEAD OF LATIN AMERICAN DEPARTMENT IN THE QUAI, TOLD US ON 22 APRIL THAT THE ARGENTINIAN POLITICIANS ARE NOW IN PARIS. THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CHEYSSON IS UNABLE TO SEE THEM BECAUSE OF HIS VISIT TO CANADA. FOUQUET HIMSELF MAY SEE THEM. THEIR MAIN AIM SEEMS TO BE TO TALK TO FRENCH SOCIALISTS. THE CHEF DE CABINET OF JOSPIN, THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PS HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT NO REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE DELEGATION TO CALL ON JOSPIN. IF IT WERE, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD IT WOULD BE TURNED DOWN. AS THE PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY WAS ABROAD, THE QUESTION OF A CALL ON HIM WOULD NOT ARISE.
2. FOUQUET ALSO SAID THAT PEREZ ESQUIVEL, THE ARGENTINIAN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, IS EXPECTED TO VISIT PARIS SOON AS PART OF A TOUR TO DEMONSTRATE ARGENTINE LIBERALS' SUPPORT FOR THE JUNTA'S ACTION.
3. FINALLY FOUQUET MENTIONED THAT THE CONTE DE BOUGAINVILLE, WHO IS A DESCENDANT OF THE FOUNDER OF THE FIRST FRENCH SETTLEMENT IN THE FALKLANDS AND WHO HAS WRITTEN TO FRENCH NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTING THE ARGENTINE CLAIM, TRAVELLED ON 21 APRIL TO BUENOS AIRES AT THE INVITATION OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY. DE BOUGAINVILLE CALLED ON FOUQUET BEFORE LEAVING AND WAS URGED TO SAY NOTHING WHICH COULD EMBARRASS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR IF NECESSARY THAT DE BOUGAINVILLE, WHO APPARENTLY HAS A CRAVING FOR PUBLICITY, HAS ABSOLUTELY NO BRIEF FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.
4. THE FRENCH PRESS HAS REPORTED THE PRESENCE IN PARIS OF AN ARGENTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION. THEY ARE QUOTED AS CONDEMNING BRITAIN'S "COLONIALIST AGGRESSION" IN SENDING THE FLEET, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THEY CALL FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA. "LE HUMANITE" FOR 22 APRIL REPORTS THAT AFTER SEEING THE ARGENTINIANS GREMETZ, A MEMBER OF THE POLITBUREAU OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) RECALLED THE PCF'S OPPOSITION TO THE JUNTA BUT SAID THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE PCF CONDEMNED BRITAIN'S ACTION IN THREATENING TO USE FORCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE "COLONIAL STATUS" OF THE FALKLANDS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE PCF HAS TAKEN A CATEGORIC PUBLIC POSITION ON THE CRISIS.

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5. THE FRENCH PRESS HAS TENDED OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS TO STRESS THE DIFFICULTIES OF WHICH BRITISH POLICY IS ENCOUNTERING OVER THE FALKLANDS. THE OAS DECISION TO CONVENE A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 26 APRIL FOR EXAMPLE, IS GENERALLY INTERPRETED AS AN IMPORTANT SUCCESS FOR ARGENTINA. IN GENERAL THE TONE OF REPORTING AND COMMENT IS BECOMING MORE RESERVED AS THE LIKELIHOOD OF HOSTILITIES IS JUDGED TO BE INCREASING.

FRETWELL.

FCC

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

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