

**CONFIDENTIAL**ENCL No.  
67

CONFIDENTIAL

(FM BERNE 141450Z)

FM BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION BUENOS AIRES

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 11 OF 13 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO

ARGENTINE INTENTIONS.

1. SINCE THE BREAK I HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, CIVIL OR MILITARY, APART FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL'S ATTENDANCE AT THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. MY SOURCES ARE LIMITED TO THE MEDIA, DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, FRIENDLY JOURNALISTS, BRITISH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND A FEW PERSONAL ARGENTINE FRIENDS. BUT AS THE DUST SETTLES, AND TO MEET YOUR REQUEST, I SHALL, IF YOU AND THE SWISS AGREE, DISCREETLY, TENTATIVELY AND INFORMALLY, ATTEMPT TO REVIVE SOME OF THE EXCELLENT OFFICIAL AND MILITARY CONTACTS WE ENJOYED BEFORE THE BREAK.

2. MEANWHILE, MY ASSESSMENT OF ARGENTINE INTENTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THEY WANT TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO OF THE ISLANDS AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT FURTHER CHANGE. HAVING GRABBED THE CHICKEN, THEY ARE PREPARED TO SIT AND BARGAIN OVER IT FOR AS LONG AS WE APPEARED TO BE WHEN THE POSITION WAS REVERSED.

(2) MANY OF THEM STILL THINK THEY ARE PLAYING A GAME. "WE LEARNT FAIR PLAY FROM THE ENGLISH. NOW WE ARE PRACTISING IT ON YOU" WAS THE DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL'S FAREWELL COMMENT. THEY WILL BE SCRUPULOUSLY CORRECT IN THEIR DEALINGS OVER PRISONERS, BRITISH RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY ..... SO LONG AS THERE ARE NO MORE ACTS OF FORCE TO MATCH THEIR OWN INITIAL PLAY. IF WE RESPOND WITH FORCE WE SHOULD EXPECT THE MOOD TO CHANGE RAPIDLY AND PETULANT ACTS OF PETTY, VINDICTIVE, VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM TO BEGIN. "CE SONT DES ENFANTS GATES. ILS NE SAVENT PAS PERDRE." IS THE JUDGMENT OF MY FRANCOPHILE COLLEAGUES.

(3) THEY WILL YIELD GRADUALLY TO AN IRON FIST IN A VELVET GLOVE, (INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES AND DISPLAY - THOUGH NOT USE, OF BRITISH FORCE) SO LONG AS ULTIMATELY THEY CAN PRESERVE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS, REPRESENTED BY THE ARGENTINE FLAG FLYING THERE. I BELIEVE, IN SPITE OF BRAVURA AND BELLICOSE DECLARATIONS, THEY HAVE LITTLE STOMACH FOR A FIGHT BUT WOULD FIGHT FRANTICALLY AND FANATICALLY FOR THE FLAG: ONE OF THE FEW SYMBOLS OF UNITY THEY HAVE.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

3. MY CONCLUSIONS ARE THAT:

- (1) WE SHOULD MAINTAIN BOTH MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE,
- (2) WE SHOULD NOT USE FORCE,
- (3) WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE TO REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION,
- (4) WE SHOULD SET ASIDE OUR PRIDE AND PURSUE FIRMLY OUR LONG TERM NATIONAL INTERESTS.

JCY 1

LEE

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

FCO  
S AM D  
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES TO  
PS/CHANCELLOR }  
SIR K COUZENS }  
MR LITTLE } TREASURY  
MR HAWTIN }  
MR PERETZ }  
MR ILETT }

MR FULLER SAPU CABINET OFFICE  
MISS DICKSON (EIP DIVN) D/ENERGY

2  
CONFIDENTIAL