

RESTRICTED

FM BERNE 151539Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCC
TELNO 54 OF 15 APRIL

WHEREABOUTS OF ROYAL MARINES AND BAS PERSONNEL

1. IN CONFIRMATION OF THE MESSAGE WHICH I PASSED ORALLY TO THE EMERGENCY UNIT ON 13 APRIL THE FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A TELEGRAM DATED 13 APRIL FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES WHICH WE RECEIVED TODAY (15 APRIL) IN A NOTE FROM THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
BEGINS.

1. I HAVE JUST PERSONALLY HANDED OVER TO KELLER SARMIENTO A NOTE VERBALE ENQUIRING ONCE MORE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WHEREABOUTS OF 22 ROYAL MARINES AND 26 MEMBERS OF THE BAS, AS WELL AS MISSES BUXTON AND PRICE, AND STRESSING THE EMOTION WHICH THE LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PEOPLE HAS CREATED IN EUROPE. M. KELLER TOLD ME THAT ALL WERE PROBABLY ON BOARD A WARSHIP WHOSE PRESENT POSITION THE ARGENTINE NAVY WERE REFUSING TO GIVE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.

I ALSO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF A DESPATCH WHICH APPEARED RECENTLY IN THE ARGENTINE PRESS ACCORDING TO WHICH 7 OTHER ROYAL MARINES TAKEN PRISONER ON 23 APRIL ON SOLEDAD ISLAND WHO HAD NOT YET BEEN EVACUATED WITH THE OTHERS TO MONTEVIDEO WERE AT PRESENT IN THE LICEO MILITAR GENERAL ROCA AT COMODORO RIVADAVIA.

2. GIVEN THE PRESENT VERY TENSE SITUATION HERE I HAVE ASKED M. KELLER TO ARRANGE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 45 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, STRICTER SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE BRITISH BUILDINGS UNDER SWISS PROTECTION IN CASE AN ARMED CONFLICT SHOULD BREAK OUT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ARGENTINA.
ENDS

2. COPY OF SWISS NOTE FOLLOWS BY BAG.

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