

ENCL No.
76

S E C R E T

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FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 151630Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK

S E C R E T

SIG A3A/19F (INSERTED BY DC6)

SECRET

FM FCO 151630Z APRIL 82
TO FLASH WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 730 OF 15 APRIL.
INFO IMMEDIATE MOD (FOR PS/SOS).
FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE URGENTLY FROM ME TO MR HAIG, TOGETHER WITH THE NEW DRAFT FORMULATION FOR PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM IN MIFT. BEGINS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDLY MESSAGE WHICH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED. AS I HAVE SAID TO YOU, AND INDEED TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND PEOPLE, WE IN LONDON ARE MOST GRATEFUL

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FOR THE EFFORTS WHICH YOU ARE MAKING TO RESOLVE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS. WE REALISE THAT THE DETERMINATION AND STAMINA REQUIRED ARE VERY GREAT. WE SEND YOU OUR WARNEST WISHES FOR YOUR CRUCIAL MEETINGS IN THE COMING DAYS IN BUENOS AIRES.

SINCE YOUR MOST RECENT VISIT AND OUR SUBSEQUENT TALKS BY TELEPHONE, WE HAVE BEEN THINKING FURTHER ABOUT THE POSITION REACHED IN YOUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A SETTLEMENT AND ABOUT THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING.

THERE IS ONE MATTER WHICH GREATLY CONCERNS THE PRIME MINISTER AND MYSELF AND OUR OTHER COLLEAGUES. RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS PROVED THAT ARGENTINA IS WILLING TO RESORT TO AGGRESSION. HAVING BEEN THE VICTIM OF ONE SUDDEN ATTACK, THEN ASSUMING THAT YOUR PRESENT EFFORTS ARE SUCCESSFUL AND ARGENTINE TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN WE COULD NOT RISK THE SAME THING AGAIN. WE THEREFORE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE ISLANDS ARE PROTECTED FROM FURTHER AGGRESSION IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS A GENERAL REQUIREMENT, BUT ONE PARTICULAR ASPECT OF IT IS THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT USE THE AIRFIELD AT PORT STANLEY, ONLY 350 MILES FROM THE MAINLAND, TO INTRODUCE LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS QUICKLY AND CONVENIENTLY, WITHOUT OUR BEING

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IN A POSITION TO PREVENT THIS.

WE IN LONDON BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY OF MINIMISING THESE RISKS WOULD BE A CONCRETE ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING THE

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UNITED STATES, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO ARGENTINE USE OF FORCE. THE METHODS OF ACHIEVING THIS CAN BE DISCUSSED FURTHER, BUT I MUST EMPHASISE THAT AN ARRANGEMENT OF THIS KIND IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE FROM LONDON ON 13 APRIL, YOU GAVE ME A REVISED TEXT OF PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THIS TEXT AS IT STANDS PRESENTS CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES FOR US. THE WORD QUOTE DECOLONISATION UNQUOTE WOULD IN ANY CASE BE UNACCEPTABLE TO PARLIAMENT, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY OF THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, REMAIN PARAMOUNT FOR US. I ENCLOSE A FORMULA FOR PARAGRAPH 8 ON LINES WHICH WE COULD ACCEPT. FOR US, THE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS TO PROVIDE FOR A SOUNDING OF THE OPINION OF OUR PEOPLE ON THE ISLANDS, IF THE ARGENTINIANS SEEM REASONABLY INCLINED TO A SOLUTION ON THE LINES ENVISAGED, BUT ARGUE FOR MORE EXPLICIT ACCOUNT TO BE TAKEN OF THE IDEA OF

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DECOLONISATION, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL IMPRESS ON THEM THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REFERENCE TO UNGA RESOLUTION 15.4. IF, HOWEVER, YOU FELT IT ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO REACH FULL AGREEMENT, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADDING TO THE TEXT AFTER QUOTE THESE GROUPS OF ISLANDS UNQUOTE THE PHRASE QUOTE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE UN CHARTER RELATING TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES UNQUOTE. ENDS.

FYH

BT

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