

ELK

SECRET

1) LEAM  
2) cite

CWG228 24 /1225 114C1575

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 241050Z A FR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUC  
CINCF LEET

SECRET U K COMMS ONL Y

SIC A3A/A3N/ 19F

SECRET U/K COMMS ONLY

DESKBY TO ALL IMMEDIATE ADDRESSEES

FM FCO 240820Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE ANKARA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 99 OF 24 APRIL

AND TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES  
INFO UKMIS GENEVA AND UKMIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS : MILITARY OPERATIONS

1. IF THERE IS A MILITARY INCIDENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, YOU WILL RECEIVE BY FLASH TELEGRAM THE TEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT EXPLAINING OUR ACTION. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY DRAW THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCREDITED, AT A HIGH LEVEL.
2. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS PROVIDE A QUARRY ON WHICH YOU MAY DRAW IN TAKING THIS ACTION, USING WHATEVER POINTS YOU JUDGE LIKELY TO PROVE EFFECTIVE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS INSTRUCTION IS TO ENABLE YOU TO ACT VERY SWIFTLY, TO FORESTALL ADVERSE OFFICIAL REACTIONS, AND MEDIA COMMENT: TO SECURE UNDERSTANDING AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TO OBTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR US.
3. ARGENTINA PERPETRATED AN ACT OF UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY PREFERABLE TO MILITARY CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, BRITISH MINISTERS HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEW THAT BRITAIN IS FULLY JUSTIFIED IN EXERCISING THE INHERENT RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 51 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER: AND THAT THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. THE ARGENTINES HAVE ALREADY HAD THREE WEEKS IN WHICH TO COMPLY WITH THE MANDATORY SECURITY RESOLUTION 502. THEY SHOW NO SIGN OF READINESS TO DO SO.
4. ARGENTINA'S CYNICAL DEFIANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION, IF NOT RESISTED, WOULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER SIMILAR ACTS, WHETHER BY THE ARGENTINES OR BY OTHERS. IT IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD GOVERN THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, AND OF THE INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS. THERE IS A WIDE CONSENSUS AMONGST THE THIRD WORLD AND SMALLER STATES, NOT LEAST IN AFRICA, THAT THE INVIOABILITY OF BORDERS SHOULD BE RESPECTED. BREACH OF THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD PRODUCE A PANDORA'S BOX OF NEW DISPUTES.
5. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN'S POSITION.

SECRET

UP TO AGGRESSION BY AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME, AND RECOGNITION OF THE FALKLANDERS UNWILLINGNESS TO BE RULED BY AN ALIEN POWER. THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AGAIN UNTIL ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCR 502. THAT WITHDRAWAL THEREFORE REMAINS OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE AND WE SHALL PURSUE IT WITH DETERMINATION BOTH IN NEGOTIATION AND IF NECESSARY IN ACTION.

6. WE RECOGNISE THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY FIND IT HARDER TO GIVE US THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT IF WE JUDGE IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND IF WE HAVE TO INFLICT CASUALTIES. WE SHALL USE NO MORE FORCE THAN IS NECESSARY TO SECURE ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FALKLANDS. NEVERTHELESS,

WE ACCEPT THAT THERE WILL BE SOME WHO WILL REGARD THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF THE ARGENTINE INVASION AS BEING VALID ONLY SO LONG AS WE DO NOT COURSELY RESORT TO THE USE OF FORCE IN SELF-DEFENCE AND IN DEFENCE OF OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. BUT WE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THESE GOVERNMENTS THAT THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT AMOUNTS TO AN ADMISSION THAT AGGRESSION PAYS.

7. SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER AT LEAST SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT OF PRINCIPLE WHICH MUST BE UPHELD. COLONIALISM IS NOT THE ISSUE. INDEED, IT IS ARGENTINA WHICH IS SEEKING TO SUBJECT AN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY TO ALIEN RULE, AGAINST THEIR CLEARLY EXPRESSED WISHES. DESPITE THE FACT THAT ARGENTINA FORMERLY HAD COLONIAL STATUS ITSELF, ITS INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IS AN ANTI-MOUMENT TO COLONIALISM. (YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW ON OUR QUI DANCE TELEGRAM AM NO. 61.)

8. THE STANDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DIMINISHED IF A MANDATORY RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAN BE DISREGARDED. IT IS BRITISH POLICY TO SECURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 502. ARGENTINA SHOULD VACATE ITS AGGRESSION IN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS. NOTHING WHICH BRITAIN HAS DONE IS IN ANY WAY INCONSISTENT WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CHARTER.

9. THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE ALLEGATIONS OF UNITED STATES COLLUSION WITH OUR MILITARY OPERATIONS, DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT SECRETARY HAIG AS A NEGOTIATOR. YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR MILITARY PLANS HAVE BEEN EXCLUSIVELY IN BRITISH HANDS. WE HAVE NOT THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THEM EVEN WITH OUR CLOSEST ALLIES, FROM WHOM WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SOUGHT AND RECEIVED SOLID SUPPORT IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS.

10. WE LOOK FOR THE UNEQUIVOCAL AND EXPLICIT MAINTENANCE OF THIS SUPPORT, AND FOR ASSURANCES THAT PRESSURE WILL BE SUSTAINED FOR ARGENTINA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

11. PLEASE REPORT RESPONSE BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM, WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF MEDIA REACTIONS.

12. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE ARGENTINES NECESSARILY TO TREAT LIMITED MILITARY OPERATIONS INITIATED BY EITHER SIDE IN THE AREA OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES AS ACTS OF WAR. IF THEY WERE TO DO SO, WE SHOULD HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO ACCEPT THAT A STATE OF WAR EXISTED AND TO TAKE MEASURES ACCORDINGLY. THE IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE COVERED IN FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

PYM  
BT

DISTRIBUTION A3A