

ENGL No 36

1) Lem
2) Liu
cc. PR.

RESTRICTED

CGW 242 25/2021 115B 1406

FOR CGW

IMMEDIATE 25 1925Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN F CO LONDON
TO GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR
M ODUK
CINCFLEET

RESTRICTED

SIC A3A/A2N/19F

RESTRICTED

DESKBY 251930 Z UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON
FM FCO 251645Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
TELEGRAM NUMBER 297 OF 25 APRIL
AND TO WASHINGTON AND IMMEDIATE CERTAIN OTHER POSTS.

MY TELNO 296: FALKLAND ISLANDS: SUBMARINE INCIDENT OFF SOUTH GEORGIA

1. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE SUBMARINE INCIDENT OFF SOUTH GEORGIA, BEGINNING. THE BRITISH TASK GROUP ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS OFF SOUTH GEORGIA DETECTED AN ARGENTINE SUBMARINE CLOSE OFF THE COAST NEAR THE HARBOUR AT GRITVIKEN AT FIRST LIGHT THIS MORNING. HELICOPTERS WERE SENT TO ENGAGE IT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD OUR SHIPS AND THE MEN ABOARD. THE SUBMARINE, WHICH HAS BEEN DAMAGED, IS BELIEVED TO BE THE SANTA FE. ENDS.

2. FOLLOWING IS UNATTRIBUTABLE BACKGROUND. BEGINNING. THE PRESENCE OF AN ARGENTINE SUBMARINE PATROLLING IN THIS AREA CLOSE TO ELEMENTS OF THE BRITISH TASK FORCE OFF SOUTH GEORGIA, CONSTITUTED A CLEAR THREAT AND HAD THEREFORE TO BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN IN PURSUANCE OF OUR INHERENT RIGHT TO SELF DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER; AND AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF OUR NOTIFICATION ON FRIDAY 23 APRIL TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT ANY APPROACH ON THE PART OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS, INCLUDING SUBMARINES...WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO A THREAT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WILL ENCOUNTER THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. ARGENTINE PUBLIC REACTION TO THIS NOTIFICATION DEMONSTRATES CLEARLY THAT THIS WARNING HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND DULY NOTED. ENDS.

3. IN ANSWER TO FURTHER QUESTIONING, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INTEND TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINES UNATTRIBUTABLY.

(1) QUESTION: HOW WAS THE SUBMARINE DEMONSTRATING HOSTILE INTENT? ANSWER: THE SUBMARINE HAD CLEAR INTENT TO INTERFERE WITH UNITS OF THE BRITISH TASK FORCE. A WARNING

RESTRICTED

WAS DELIVERED TO THE ARGENTINES ON FRIDAY. THE SUBMARINE IGNORED IT.

(114) QUESTION: WAS THE SUBMARINE ON THE SURFACE?
ANSWER: YES. BUT THE SUBMARINE'S CAPABILITY IS NOT AFFECTED BY WHETHER IT WAS ON THE SURFACE OR UNDER WATER. WHETHER SUBMERGED OR NOT, THE SUBMARINE WAS AN OBVIOUS THREAT TO BRITISH FORCES.

(114) QUESTION: DID THE ROYAL NAVY FIRE FIRST?
ANSWER: THE FORCE'S COMMANDER HAS VERY PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS. IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT AND OBVIOUS THREAT FROM THE SUBMARINE TO BRITISH FORCES, BRITISH COMMANDER COULD NOT RISK WAITING TO BE ATTACKED AND WAS THEREFORE OBLIGED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE COUNTER MEASURES. THE ARGENTINE SUBMARINE WAS CLEARLY INTENDING TO INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF BRITISH FORCES IN SOUTH ATLANTIC. A WARNING HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ARGENTINA ON FRIDAY. ARGENTINA CHOSE TO IGNORE IT. AS IS WELL KNOWN, SOUTH GEORGIA AND BRITISH FORCES ON IT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY ARGENTINE FORCES ON 3 APRIL.

4. YOU SHOULD TAKE THE SAME LINE.

PYM
BT

DISTRIBUTION A3A

C
CXK 4 CO SSEC ACTION (CXK 1 DSC *)
CAB 3 A CDS (Pot)
CW 1 AUS (D staff)
CAB 1 CAS
CWR 1 CDS
CWT 1 CGS
CWS 1 CNS
CYL 1 CPR
CYG 1 DIC
CXU 2 DNOT
CW 1 DS 11/12
CW 1 DS 17
CWG 1 DS 5
CWU 1 DS 6/7
CYU 1 DS 8
CXJ 1 DSC (AFDO*)
CWQ 1 DSC (NATO)
CXK 1 DSC (ROW)
CAB 1 DUS (P)
CAB 1 GF 1
CAJ 1 IP 2
CYR 1 Res Clerk
CAF 1 S of S
CAF 1 VCDS (P&L)

DISTRIBUTION A2N

C
CAB 1 PUS ACTION (CYR 1 Res Clerk*)

DISTRIBUTION 19F

C

CXK 1 DSC(R OW) ACTION (CXK 1 DSC*)
 CYH 1 AC DS(S)
 CWP 1 ACNS(0)
 CXQ 1 ASD 2
 CAF 4 CGRM
 CXK 2 CO SSEC
 CWN 1 DOMS
 CW 1 DS 11
 CAB 1 Minister of state(AF)
 CAB 1 Minister of State(DP)
 CXQ 1 MO 2
 CAB 1 PUS
 CAB 1 US of S(AF)
 CAB 1 US of S(DP)
 CWQ 1 DSC(SCPL)
 CXJ 1 D SC(AF OPS)
 CX M 1 DSC(NAV Y OPS)

35
 Date
 cc. PR

RESTRICTED
 APR 23 1952
 NEW YORK

... WAS INTERVIEWED TODAY ON THE ABC SUNDAY NEWS AND PROGRAMME
 ... SENATOR TOWER, WHO FOLLOWED
 ... NEGOTIATING OF THE PARLANS ISLAND DISPUTE
 ... PROVIDE BRITS WITH LOGISTICS AND
 ... SUPPORT IN A BY MILITARY BRIGADES. TOWER ACC
 ... AND NOT ASKED FOR BRITISH SUPPORT. WHEN PRESSURE ABOUT
 ... MILITARY AND NAVAL. IMPLEMENT TOWER SAID HE
 ... NAVY SHOULD ACCEPT A ROLE OF ASSISTING IN
 ... SUPPORT FOR BRITISH TOWNS IN THE
 ...

THE END

RESTRICTED
 CONSEC ACTION (CXK 1 DSC*)