

GRS 230

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FM SANTIAGO 051600Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 210 OF 5 MAY

1982
ASST
SIIIA

cc: *Chote*
ENCL N.º
B

MY TELNO 207: CHILE/FALKLANDS/ARGENTINA

1. TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES TOLD COSTA MENDEZ ON 4 MAY THAT
 - A) CHILE WILL REMAIN STRICTLY NEUTRAL;
 - B) QUOTE THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE HAVE THEIR BACKS GUARDED BY CHILE'S FIRM AND LOYAL STANCE UNQUOTE;
 - C) HMS EXETER HAD NEVER SAILED IN CHILEAN WATERS OR ENTERED CHILEAN PORTS;
 - D) RFA TIDEPOOL HAD NOT BEEN HANDED OVER TO CHILE;
 - E) CHILE HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT PROVIDE FUEL FOR BRITISH SHIPS INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT.

2. COSTA MENDEZ IS REPORTED TO HAVE THANKED JARPA FOR THE DESPATCH OF THE QUOTE PILOTO PARDO UNQUOTE (SEE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE).

3. THE CHILEAN CONSUL IN COMODORO RIVADIA FOR HIS PART IS QUOTED IN EL MERCURIO AS HAVING CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT CHILE HAD PROVIDED SUPPLIES TO BRITISH AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS.

4. BY THESE STATEMENTS, JARPA IS PROBABLY DOING HIS BEST TO SAFEGUARD CHILEAN INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA, NOT TO MENTION THE SECURITY OF THE CHILEAN EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND VARIOUS CONSULTATES WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER THREAT. WHILE JARPA HAS ALWAYS HAD A SLIGHT TENDENCY TO STRAY BEYOND HIS BRIEF, HIS COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT THE MFA HERE IS NOW MORE ANXIOUS THAN EVER TO DISCREDIT ANY RUMOURS WHICH CAST DOUBT ON THE SINCERITY OF CHILE'S PROFESSED NEUTRALITY.

5. I DO NOT THINK THAT THE ABOVE NEED NECESSARILY BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, BUT WE SHALL NO DOUBT FIND OUT MORE WHEN I HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ASKED FOR IN PARA.3 OF MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 221.

HEATH

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