

PERSONAL

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FM PARIS 031452Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 584 of 3 JUN 82

PERSONAL FOR PUS

MY TEL NO 583

ARMS FOR ARGENTINA

1. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE APPARENT ASSUMPTION IN WHITEHALL THAT THE FRENCH ARE GOING TO BE COOPERATIVE WHATEVER WE ASK OF THEM AND WHENEVER AND WHATEVER WAY WE PUT QUESTIONS TO THEM ABOUT ARMS SUPPLIED. I KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING. BUT BRITISH CREDIT HERE IS FAR FROM INEXHAUSTIBLE AND IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE GETTING THIS INFORMATION, WE HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FRENCH SENSIBILITIES.

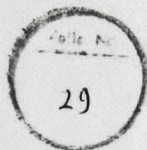
2. AS WE KNOW FROM MANY SOURCES THERE IS A FORMIDABLE ARMS LOBBY HERE WHICH WANTS TO DEVELOP ARMS SALES TO LATIN AMERICA AND WHICH BELIEVES THAT COOPERATION WITH THE UK, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT FRENCH ARMS, WILL BLIGHT A VERY FAVOURABLE PROSPECT. SO FAR WE HAVE MANAGED TO OVERCOME THIS SORT OF RESISTANCE, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I AND MY STAFF SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO JUDGE THE BEST METHOD OF APPROACH TO THE FRENCH. IF IS AN ERROR FOR THE MOD TO SEND OUT AN OFFICER WITH APPARENT UNDERSTANDING OF THIS BACKGROUND TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE FRENCH WHICH MY DEFENCE STAFF ARE NOT ONLY FULLY CAPABLE OF DOING BUT WOULD HAVE DONE WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS RISK OF PUTTING UP THE BACKS OF OUR FRENCH CONTACTS. RELATIONS WITH THE FRENCH - AND THE FLOW OF INFORMATION - WILL NOT WITHSTAND SUCH EXERCISES.

SECRET

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2038/1/1

PS/SofS
PS/PUS
Sec/CNS
MA/CGS
PS/CGS
PS/CAS
PS/CSA
MA/DCDS(I)
MA/DCDS(OR)
ACDS(Ops)
ACDS(Pol)
ACDS(S)
AUS(D Staff) (Please pass to FCO)
Air Cdre Int



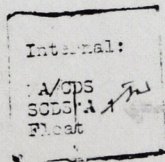
QUERIES TO BRITISH EMBASSY PARIS ON ARMS TRAFFIC

1. Sir Antony Acland mentioned to CDS this morning that our Embassy in Paris has received a large number of questions, many duplicating each other, on the subject of arms supplies from France, and related matters. I have discussed this with DCDS(I) who advises that, on this subject, the single point of contact between MOD and our Defence Attache in Paris should be Air Cdre Int, whose duties include heading up the Defence Intelligence Staff's Arms Traffic Cell.
2. Under separate cover I have forwarded to Air Cdre Int the DIPTTEL from HMA Paris which gives the flavour of the difficulties which our Embassy experience over relations with the French on this subject.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Brook".

D C G BROOK
Air Cdre
PSO/CDS
Ext 3353 MB

4 June 1982



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