

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

HD/PUSD (2)
HD/SAMD
HD/FID
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (3)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)
MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA
MR A TITCHENER)
MR C U ROBERTS, IAT) DOT

RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

(FM DERNE 031614Z)

FM SIS BUENOS AIRES

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 90 OF 02 MARCH
INFO IMMEDIATE NEW YORK WASHINGTON



MS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATION OF A REPORT IN "DIARIO POPULAR" OF 1ST MARCH (ORIGINAL TEXT BY BAG TO FCO) ON THE PLANS OF THE CENTRE FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FATHERLAND TO ARRANGE A VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS.

EX COMBATANTS REQUEST PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE FALKLANDS

THEY WISH TO PAY HOMAGE TO THEIR FALLEN COMRADES. A GROUP OF EX-COMBATANTS OF THE FALKLANDS WAR IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE ISLANDS TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS AT THE GRAVES CONTAINING THE MORTAL REMAINS OF THE ARGENTINES WHO FELL IN BATTLE DURING THE CONFLICT WITH BRITAIN, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED YESTERDAY FROM THE "CENTRE FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FATHERLAND".

IN THIS COMMUNIQUE, SIGNED BY OSVALDO DESTEFANIS, LEADER OF THE ORGANIZATION, IT IS POINTED OUT THAT "IN ORDER TO AVOID SETBACKS, DESIGNED TO FORCIBLY PREVENT THIS MISSION TAKING PLACE, THE CO-OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS BEEN REQUESTED, AS WELL AS THE PROTECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS".

LET US REMEMBER... THEY CONTINUE... THAT WE ARE LOVED BY THE

"LET US REMEMBER", THEY CONTINUE, "THAT WE ARE MOVED BY THE SAME HUMANITARIAN REASONS THAT BRITAIN INVOKED WHEN SHE REQUESTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY, PERMISSION TO LAND IN THAT COUNTRY AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS OF BRITISH SOLDIERS WHO FELL IN THE FALKLANDS".

THE PARENTS, WIVES, AND OTHER RELATIVES OF "OUR SOLDIERS BURIED IN THE FALKLANDS", HE ADDS, "WHO WISH TO TAKE PART IN THIS VISIT, SHOULD CONTACT THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE ORGANIZATION AT MEUQUEN 2025, CAPITAL, OR BY POST, TO BOX NO. 173, P.O. 16, POSTAL CODE 1406."

DESTEFANIS POINTED OUT THAT "THIS VISIT HAS NO POLITICAL OVERTONES", AND THAT "IN ORDER TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, WE ARE PROTECTED BY ARTICLE 14 OF THE ARGENTINE CONSTITUTION". HE ADDED THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO MEET THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE'S ARGENTINE OFFICE, TO FINALIZE DETAILS OF THE VISIT WHICH WAS TO TAKE PLACE "IN ABOUT 45 DAY'S TIME, BY SEA", AND CONTINUED, "IT MAY BE A SHIP WHICH CAPACITY FOR 22 PASSENGERS OR FOR 60".

2. THE CENTRE'S REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CONTACTED NEITHER BISBA NOR THE SWISS EMBASSY HERE AND WE FEAR THAT THEY MAY LAUNCH A DELIBERATELY PROVOCATIVE EXPEDITION SOMETIME DURING THE NEXT 45 DAYS.

3. EDMOND CORTHESEY, THE BUENOS AIRES REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RED CROSS HAS INFORMED OUR SWISS COLLEAGUES THAT HE WAS ASKED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR DETAILS OF DESTEFANIS'S PLANS DURING A VISIT TO URUGUAY YESTERDAY. THE URUGUAYANS HAD LEARNED OF THE PROPOSED EXPEDITION THROUGH PRESS RELEASES AND EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED UNLESS OFFICIALLY APPROACHED BY THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT THEY ANTICIPATE AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE THEIR CO-OPERATION IN SOME WAY.

4. CORTHESEY WAS ALSO CONTACTED THIS MORNING BY THE ARGENTINE MFA, WHO QUERIED WHERE THE MATTER NOW STOOD. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE ENQUIRY WAS INNOCENT OF WHETHER THE MFA WAS A PARTY TO THE PROJECT. CORTHESEY HAD RECEIVED YESTERDAY A NOTE FROM DESTEFANIS WHICH STRESSED THAT THE GROUP'S OBJECTIVES WERE MERELY HUMANITARIAN, AND WHICH REQUESTED PROTECTIVE ASSISTANCE. THE MESSAGE HAD INCLUDED VIGOROUS CRITICISM OF THE BRITISH POSITION.

5. DESTEFANIS WILL CALL ON CORTHESEY ON THE MORNING OF 3 MARCH, WHEN, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE SWISS, HE WILL BE TOLD THAT ANY UNAUTHORIZED INTRUSION INTO THE FALKLANDS ZONE WILL MEET WITH AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FROM THE BRITISH.

JOY

POWELL-JONES