

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39 43

*Mofax
Trablen*

PS
PS/A HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS

IMMEDIATE

~~SIR J BULLARD~~ MR GOODISON
~~SIR I SINCLAIR~~ MR DARWIN
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URE
~~MR GILLMORE~~

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST. (3)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR)
MISS M E CUND) 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
MR A FORTNAM)

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

RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BERNE 300730Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 900F 30 APRIL

TELECONS BROOK/RESIDENT CLERK OF 29 AND 30 APRIL: VISIT OF ARGENTINE NEXT-OF-AKIN

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE ARGENTINE NOTE HANDED TO THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES BY UNDER SECRETARY DUMONT OF THE MFA ON 29 APRIL:-

Q U O T E

EL GOBIERNO ARGENTINO HA RECIBIDO LA NOTA DE LA EMBAJADA DE SUIZA DE FECHA 22 DE ABRIL DE 1983, QUE LLEVA EL NUMERO I.E.(GB) 39/83 QUE SE REFIERE A LAS ACTIVIDADES DEL SENOR OSVALDO DESTEFANIS QUIEN PROYECTA REALIZAR UN VIAJE A LAS ISLAS MALVINAS CON UN GRUPO DE FAMILIARES DE SOLDADOS ARGENTINOS ALLI SEPULTADOS.

EL GOBIERNO ARGENTINO NO CONSIDERA ACEPTABLES LOS TERMINOS UTILIZADOS POR LAS AUTORIDADES BRITANICAS QUE SE INCLUYEN EN LA REFERIDA NOTA.

DEBE RECONOCERSE ANTE TODO EL LEGITIMO DERECHO DE UN GRUPO DE CIUDADANOS ARGENTINOS QUE POR RAZONES PURAMENTE HUMANITARIAS, QUE DEBEN SER RESPETADAS, DESEA RENDIR UN HOMENAJE A FAMILIARES QUE DESCANSAN EN LAS MALVINAS. NO EXISTE NINGUN ELEMENTO DE JUICIO QUE PERMITA DUDAR DE LOS EXCLUSIVOS FINES HUMANITARIOS QUE INSPIRAN A ESTA INICIATIVA.

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NI EL GOBIERNO DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA NI NINGUNA DE SUS AUTORIDADES TIENE VINCULACION OFICIAL CON EL CENTRO DE VOLUNTARIOS PARA LA PATRIA NI CON EL SENOR DESTEFANIS Y NO HA INTERVENIDO EN NINGUNO DE LOS PREPARATIVOS MENCIONADOS. POR LO TANTO, RESULTA TOTALMENTE IMPROCEDENTE LA VELADA AMENAZA QUE FORMULA EL GOBIERNO BRITANICO EN EL SEGUNDO PARRAFO DE LA CITADA NOTA, PRETENDIENDO RESPONSABILIZAR A LAS AUTORIDADES ARGENTINAS POR LAS DIFICULTADES O LOS RIESGOS QUE PUDIERAN SUSCITARSE.

EL GOBIERNO ARGENTINO CONTINUA ANALIZANDO LA POSIBILIDAD Y LA OPORTUNIDAD PARA LA REALIZACION DE UN VIAJE A LAS ISLAS MALVINAS A FIN DE QUE LOS FAMILIARES DIRECTOS DE QUIENES HAN FALLECIDO EN LAS OPERACIONES DEL ATLANTICO SUR PUEDAN RENDIR HOMENAJE A QUIENES ESTAN SEPULTADOS EN ESA PORCION DE NUESTRO TERRITORIO. ESTA ACTIVIDAD INSPIRADA EN RAZONES EXCLUSIVAMENTE HUMANITARIAS SE ENCUADRARA EN LAS NORMAS DEL DERECHO INTERNACIONAL.

SITUACIONES COMO LA PRESENTE SE PLANTEAN COMO CONSECUENCIA DE LA EMPECINADA NEGATIVA DEL GOBIERNO BRITANICO A ACEPTAR LA RECOMENDACION QUE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS HA FORMULADO A TRAVES DE LA RESOLUCION 37/9 DEL AÑO 1982, PIDIENDO A AMBOS GOBIERNOS QUE REANUDEN LAS NEGOCIACIONES A FIN DE ENCONTRAR A LA MAYOR BREVEDAD UNA SOLUCION PACIFICA A LA DISPUTA DE SOBERANIA REFERIDA A LA CUESTION DE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS.

U N Q U O T E

2. WHEN PASSING THE TEXT OF THE NOTE TO US GHISLER, HEAD OF THE SWISS FOREIGN INTERESTS SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KEUSCH HAD REPORTED THAT DUMONT HAD TOLD HIM THAT A RESOLUTION WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE MILITARY JUNTA IMMEDIATELY. IT WOULD STATE THAT THE LAGO LACAR AND ITS PASSENGERS CANNOT ACCOMPLISH THE VOYAGE BECAUSE IT MAY ONLY BE AUTHORISED BY THE JUNTA. IF THEY WISHED HOWEVER THEY COULD HOLD A COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE WHERE THE GENERAL BELGRANO WAS SUNK LAST YEAR. AMBASSADOR KEUSCH SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION AS IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MASS MEDIA.

3. AMBASSADOR KEUSCH REPORTED THAT DUMONT HAD ADDED THAT ANY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DEMARCHE IN RESPECT OF ARRANGING A VISIT AS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE NOTE WOULD BE MADE VIA ICRC CHANNELS.

4. FCO PLEASE PASS AS APPROPRIATE.
POWELL-JONES

SENT AT RECD AT 300800Z MEB/IJC

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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF NOTE HANDED TO SWISS AMBASSADOR
IN BUENOS AIRES ON 29 APRIL

The Argentine Government has received the Note of 22 April from the Swiss Embassy, number 39/83, about the activities of Sr Osvaldo Destefanis, who plans to carry out a trip to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) with a group of relatives of Argentine soldiers buried there.

The Argentine Government do not consider acceptable the terms used by the British authorities that are included in the Note under reference.

Above all, one should recognise the legitimate right of a group of Argentine citizens who, for purely humanitarian reasons that should be respected, wish to pay tribute to relatives at rest in the Falklands (Malvinas). There is no basis for doubting the exclusively humanitarian aims inspiring this initiative.

Neither the Argentine Government nor any of its agencies has any official connection with the Centre of Volunteers for the Fatherland, nor with Sr Destefanis, and they have not intervened in any of the plans in question. The veiled threat from the British Government in the second paragraph of the Note, seeking to make the Argentine authorities responsible for the difficulties or risks that could arise, is therefore wholly out of order.

The Argentine Government continue to study the possibility and the suitability of arranging a trip to the Islands so that direct [our underlining] relatives of those who fell in the Atlantic campaign can pay tribute to those buried in that part of our territory. This action, deriving from purely humanitarian motives, will be within the framework of the principles of international law.

Situations like the present arise as a result of the British Government's obstinate refusal to accept the recommendations

of the U.N.G.A. in its Resolution 37/9 of 1982,
urging both Governments to renew negotiations with a
view to finding a peaceful solution as soon as possible to
the question of Sovereignty over the Falklands (Malvinas).

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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE OF
29 APRIL 1983

PREAMBLE

In view of the fact that it is one year since the start of active hostilities in the South Atlantic conflict, and considering that it is therefore right to pay the Argentine nation's tribute and homage to those who died defending our national sovereignty, the Military Committee therefore resolves:-
Article 1 - to pay homage at 1700 hours [2000 hrs GMT] on 2 May 1983 - at the place where the Argentine Navy cruiser 'General Belgrano' sank - to all civilian and military combatants killed in the operations conducted in the South Atlantic, detaching for this purpose one surface vessel of the Argentine Navy and one aircraft of the Argentine Air Force to drop floral wreaths on behalf of the three Armed Services.

Article 2 - to continue to analyse the possibilities and feasibility of undertaking a journey to the Malvinas Islands, to pay homage to those who fell for the Fatherland and are buried in this corner of our territory.

Article 3 - to direct that the groups going on this journey should be made up exclusively of direct relatives of those who died in the South Atlantic operations.

Article 4 - to organize and carry out the action following from the above directions, according to humanitarian criteria, bearing in mind that the action must be within the framework of the current norms of international law and endeavouring to ensure that it does not affect the diplomatic measures which the country is undertaking internationally.

Article 5 - consequent upon the contents of the above articles, it is established:

(A) Faced with the insensitive and intransigent attitude of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which fails to understand the feelings of the relatives of those Argentines at rest in the Malvinas Islands, and aware that the unavoidable responsibility of the national authorities is to watch over the safety of all their citizens, to forbid any activity which does not conform to the stipulations of the present Resolution.

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(B) to put at the disposal of those relatives who wish to be present at the ceremony on 2 May the ship 'Lago Lacar', to accompany the units of the Argentine Armed Forces who will pay homage in the manner described in Article 1.

(C) to settle all expenses involved in the fulfilment of the present Resolution; these will be paid for by the State.

Article 6 - The National Directorate of the Official Registrar desires that this Resolution be promulgated, fulfilled and passed to the Archives.