

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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OO UKMIS NEW YORK

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TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 384 OF 17 AUGUST

INFO PRIORITY CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY, BIS BUENOS AIRES,
WASHINGTON.

YOUR TELNO 680 (NOT TO ALL) : FALKLANDS

MIPT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPLY TO ARGENTINE LETTERS OF 28 JUNE
AND 16 JULY.

BEGINS

I HAVE THE HONOUR, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, TO STATE
THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTERS DATED 28 JUNE AND
16 JULY 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA
(A/38.287 SEMI-COLON S/15849 AND A/38/301) ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

THE UNITED KINGDOM REJECTS THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE BRITISH
AUTHORITIES ARE BENT ON MAINTAINING A CLIMATE OF CONFRONTATION,
AS INDEED IT REJECTS THE ARGENTINE REFERENCES TO QUOTE
MILITARISING UNQUOTE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. FAR FROM SEEKING
CONFRONTATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS TAKEN INITIATIVES TOWARDS
THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TO
WHICH ARGENTINA HAS INADEQUATELY RESPONDED. AS WAS POINTED OUT
IN MY LETTER OF 18 MAY, ARGENTINA'S REFUSAL TO DECLARE A
DEFINITIVE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND TO RENOUNCE THE FUTURE
USE OF FORCE CANNOT BUT CARRY THE IMPLICATION THAT IT MAY BE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

THE INTENTION OF ARGENTINA TO RESUME ACTIVE HOSTILITIES. AND RECENT INCURSIONS INTO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PROTECTION ZONE BY ARGENTINE MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS BY UNAUTHORISED CIVILIAN VESSELS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE CONTINUING NEED FOR MEASURES TO ENSURE THE DEFENCES OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO DEFEND THE POPULATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AGAINST FURTHER HOSTILE ACTION BY ARGENTINA. THE UNITED KINGDOM REMAINS DETERMINED TO FULFIL THAT DUTY. THE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT THE NEW AIRFIELD ON THE ISLANDS IS A NECESSARY PART OF THIS POLICY. THE ARGENTINE LETTER OF 16 JULY SUGGESTS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE USED AS A QUOTE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT BASE UNQUOTE. THIS IS FALSE. THE CHOICE OF CAPE TOWN BY THE CONTRACTORS AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR THEIR CIVILIAN WORKFORCE WAS DECIDED BY THE CONTRACTORS, WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE DECISION RELATED ONLY TO THE CONTRACTORS' CIVILIAN WORKFORCE AND NOT (NOT) TO EQUIPMENT OR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL FOR THE AIRFIELD. ALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS WILL BE TRANSPORTED DIRECT FROM BRITAIN BY SEA. NO MILITARY OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL WILL TRAVEL VIA CAPE TOWN.

THE LETTER OF 16 JULY ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS MILITARY FACILITIES ON A SCALE ABOVE THAT REQUIRED TO MEET THE PRESENT THREAT TO THE ISLANDS. THIS IS ABSURD. THE NATURE OF THE THREAT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IS UNFORTUNATELY VERY PLAIN. THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL MAINTAIN THE DEFENSIVE DISPOSITIONS NECESSARY TO MEET IT.

THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS RESOLUTION 37/9 IS WELL KNOWN. THIS RESOLUTION FAILED TO GIVE EXPRESS RECOGNITION TO THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AND APPEARED TO SUGGEST THAT THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS SHOULD BE CHANGED IRRESPECTIVE OF THE MANIFEST WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS. THE REFERENCES IN THE ARGENTINE LETTER OF 28 JUNE TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE WAY OF LIFE AND TRADITIONS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS AND THE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF THEIR INTERESTS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR RECOGNITION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE ARGENTINE LETTER'S OFFENSIVE REFERENCES TO QUOTE ILLEGAL COLONIAL PRESENCE UNQUOTE AND QUOTE INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF BRITISH COLONIALISM UNQUOTE OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT REMAINS THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT PREFERRED BY THE INHABITANTS WHO HAVE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED THE ARGENTINE ALTERNATIVE. THE UNITED KINGDOM, FOR ITS PART, WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR FREELY AND CLEARLY EXPRESSED WISHES.

ENDS

WHITNEY

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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Falklands (VIN)
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OO UKMIS NEW YORK

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TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 383 OF 17 AUGUST

INFO PRIORITY CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY, BIS BUENOS AIRES,
WASHINGTON.

YOUR TELNO 680 (NOT TO ALL) : FALKLANDS

1. MIFT CONTAINS TEXT OF PROPOSED JOINT REPLY TO ARGENTINE LETTERS OF 28 JUNE AND 16 JULY. IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION (AND WE NOTED YOUR OWN DOUBTS ABOUT PUTTING TOO MUCH WEIGHT ON ARGUMENTS BASED ON QUOTE SELF-DETERMINATION UNQUOTE), PLEASE TRANSMIT THIS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 24 DISCUSS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. YOU SHOULD ASK THAT IT BE GIVEN THE SAME CIRCULATION AS THE ARGENTINE LETTERS.

2. WE WILL INSTRUCT YOU IN DUE COURSE HOW TO REPLY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER OF 20 JULY, AND, WHEN WE HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR PROMISED DRAFT, TO THE ARGENTINE COMMUNICATION OF 10 AUGUST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AS OUR LETTER IN REPLY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS NOT FOR EARLY PUBLICATION, WE DO NOT (NOT) SEE THE NEED FOR IT TO BE SENT IN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF 24'S DISCUSSION.

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