

GRS 250

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 021919Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3632 OF 2 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO PORT STANLEY CIVIL COMMISSIONER

INFO SAVING PARIS BONN

MY TELEGRAMS NOS 3509 TO 3511: ARGENTINA: CERTIFICATION

1. EAGLEBURGER TOLD MINISTER THIS MORNING THAT A RECOMMENDATION HAD NOW GONE TO THE PRESIDENT ON CERTIFICATION FOR ARGENTINA. EAGLEBURGER EXPECTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD REACH A CONCLUSION ON THIS QUESTION OVER THE WEEKEND AND WOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN HE HAD DONE SO. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT ONCE THE ELECTIONS IN ARGENTINA HAD TAKEN PLACE, CERTIFICATION WOULD BE INEVITABLE. OUR FRIENDS IN THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN ABLE TO DELAY THIS BUT NEVER EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO PREVENT IT. WE FOR OUR PART HAD MADE OUR CONCERNS VERY CLEAR AND

HAD BEEN ABLE TO DELAY THIS BUT NEVER EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO PREVENT IT. WE FOR OUR PART HAD MADE OUR CONCERNS VERY CLEAR AND EAGLEBURGER GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE CLOSEST ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO THESE IF AND WHEN IT CAME TO ACTUAL ARMS SALES. HE HIMSELF DOUBTED WHETHER THE ARGENTINIANS WOULD BE LOOKING TO THE UNITED STATES SO MUCH AS TO ISRAEL, WHICH WAS CONTINUING TO TAKE A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE POTENTIAL ARGENTINIAN ARMS MARKET. (WE HAVE REMINDED THE AMERICANS OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT ARGENTINIAN ATTEMPTS TO BUY SKYHAWKS FROM ISRAEL.)

2. THOMAS THANKED EAGLEBURGER FOR THIS WARNING. HE ACCEPTED THAT WE HAD HAD MANY INDICATIONS FROM THE SECRETARY DOWNWARDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS MOVING TOWARDS A DECISION. THIS DID NOT LESSEN THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION BEFORE A FINAL DECISION WAS PROMULGATED AND ABOUT SPECIFIC ARMS CONTRACTS, IF IT CAME TO THAT.

3. WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT ATTENDING ALFONSIN'S INAUGURATION (MY TEL NO 3570) A U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.

FCO PASS SAVING PARIS BONN.

WR IGHT

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