

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

39

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR WHITNEY
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 CARTLEDGE

ED/PUSD (2)

ED/SAMD

ED/FID

~~ED/DEFENCE DEPT~~

ED/NEWS DEPT

ED/ERD

ED/ECD(E)

ED/UND

ED/PLANNING STAFF

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 OFF
DIO)

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

Mr A FORTNAM IAT/ D. TRANSPORT

RESIDENT CLERK

ms

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 122315Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3732 OF 12 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY BERNE

MY TELS NOS 3678 AND 3698:

ARGENTINA

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

1. THE VICE PRESIDENT SENT A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHILE HE WAS EN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES, MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE ALFONSIN TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN.

2. ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S RETURN TODAY HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER, GREGG, CONTACTED US TO SAY THAT MR BUSH WAS VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE ADVANCE WARNING OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO ALFONSIN. WHILE CONSCIOUS OF THE STAGGERING PROBLEMS ARGENTINA AND THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT FACED, MR BUSH HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE EUPHORIA IN BUENOS AIRES AND STILL MORE, BY ALFONSIN PERSONALLY. ALFONSIN HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE REALISED THAT QUOTE ARGENTINA WILL ALWAYS BE A TINPOT COUNTRY UNLESS WE ABIDE BY A FEW GOLDEN RULES UNQUOTE. ALFONSIN AND HIS DEFENCE MINISTER HAD SOUGHT US VIEWS ON WAYS OF OVERCOMING INTER-SERVICE RIVALRIES WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, AND HELPING TO ENSURE CIVILIAN CONTROL.

3. ALFONSIN HAD TOLD THE VICE PRESIDENT THAT RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN HAD SUFFERED FROM THE FALKLANDS. BUT THEY COULD IMPROVE. HE WANTED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTION. CONVERSATIONS SHOULD BEGIN EVEN WITH DIFFERING AGENDAS ON THE TWO SIDES. THE KEY STEPS

WOULD BE AN END TO THE EXCLUSION ZONE AND AVOIDANCE OF THE CREATION OF A QUOTE FORTRESS UNQUOTE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT WE WANTED TO RE-BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP, THOUGH WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS SOVERIEGNTY. CERTIFICATION OF ARGENTINA HAD NOT BEEN EASY FOR BRITAIN TO ACCEPT. THE US WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES. IF THE US COULD PLAY A USEFUL PART, THEY WERE PREPARED TO DO SO, BUT NOT IF THERE WAS NO REAL SCOPE TO DO SO.

5. GREGG SAID THAT ALFONSIN SEEMED TO HAVE TAKEN A SIMILAR LINE IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE QUOTE OBSERVER UNQUOTE ON SUNDAY.

5. WE THANKED GREGG FOR THIS ACCOUNT. WE POINTED OUT THAT ALFONSIN IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS HAD TALKED ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY BEING QUOTE A FACT PREVIOUS TO NEGOTIATION UNQUOTE ETC. THIS WAS NOT HELPFUL. BUT IT REMAINED OUR DESIRE TO WORK BACK TOWARDS A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP.

6. I SHALL BE HAVING A FURTHER TALK WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT ABOUT THIS AND OTHER MATTERS ON WEDNESDAY. I SHALL BE DRAWING HIS ATTENTION TO YOUR REMARKS IN YOUR BBC INTERVIEW (YOUR TEL. NO. 595 TO PORT STANLEY). PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE ARE OTHER POINTS YOU WISH ME TO PUT TO HIM. I SHALL OF COURSE TELL HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM IN LONDON IN JANUARY 1984.

WRIGHT

NNNN