

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

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FOR CWG

FLASH/IMMEDIATE 202310Z MAR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO HMS ENDURANCE
INFO MODUK NAVY
CINCFLEET

C O N F I D E N T I A L UK COMMS ONLY

SIC A3A

FROM FCO

TO F L A S H PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR, HMS ENDURANCE
PLEASE PASS)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 35 OF 20 MARCH 1982

AND TO F L A S H BUENOS AIRES

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK NAVY AND CINCFLEET.

YOUR TELNO 40: ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA.

1. CINCFLEET IS SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN OF HMS ENDURANCE TO LEAVE FOR SOUTH GEORGIA AT 0930 HOURS ON 21 MARCH (ORIGINAL SCHEDULED TIME FOR HER DEPARTURE FOR MONTEVIDEO), UNLESS REPEAT UNLESS BASE COMMANDER GRYTUIKEN HAS BY THEN CONFIRMED THAT ARGENTINE SHIP AND PARTY HAVE LEFT LEITH. YOU HAVE DISCRETION, IN CONSULTATION WITH CAPTAIN BARKER, TO EMBARK WHATEVER DETACHMENT OF MARINE GARRISON SEEMS NECESSARY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT IS THEREFORE THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO KNOW WHETHER CAPTAIN OF BAHIA BUEN SUCESO HAS OBEYED YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. PARA 3 OF YOUR T U R IS UNCLEAR ON WHETHER OBSERVATION IS BEING MAINTAINED AT LEITH. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ESTABLISH POSITION WITH BASE COMMANDER AND KEEP US FULLY AND IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

3. WE NOTE YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT NEWS OF INCIDENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO LEAK SOON. DESTINATION OF HMS ENDURANCE, IF IT SAILS TO SOUTH GEORGIA, SHOULD HOWEVER AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE ESCALATING INCIDENT UNNECESSARILY AT THIS STAGE AND UNTIL FACTS OF SITUATION AT LEITH CAN BE CLARIFIED.

4. IF NEWS DOES BREAK, WE WILL FOR PRESENT CONFIRM THAT REPORTS OF ILLEGAL ARGENTINE LANDING IN SOUTH GEORGIA HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND THAT ARGENTINE VESSEL AND PARTY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE. WE WILL ADD THAT WE HAVE SOUGHT URGENT CLARIFICATION FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT WE REGARD THIS AS A SERIOUS INCIDENT. IF PRESSED ON HMS ENDURANCE, MOD WILL AT THIS STAGE SAY ONLY THAT HMS ENDURANCE IS IN FALKLAND WATERS AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IF NECESSARY.

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

5. FOR BUENOS AIRES. DUTY UNDER SECRETARY CALLED IN ARGENTINE CHARGE THIS EVENING AND SPOKE ON LINES OF PARA 3 OF MY TELNO 34 TO PORT STANLEY. MOLteni TOOK NOTE AND UNDERTOOK TO INFORM HIS MFA WITHOUT DELAY.

6. YOUR TELNO 84. WE FULLY ACCEPT VIEW IN SECOND SENTENCE OF YOUR PARA 2. WE HOPE THEREFORE THAT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THEIR POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

GARRINGTON

BT

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