

ENCL No.
45

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

C 4002 30/0049 089C0104

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 292300Z MAR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK NAVY

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

SIC A3A/A2M (SICS ADDED BY D00)

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 300800Z

FM UKREP BRUSSELS 292300Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1289 OF 29 MARCH 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK NAVY

FROM BULLARD

YOUR TELNO 260: SOUTH GEORGIA

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE PREFERS TO MAKE A SLIGHTLY LESS DRAMATIC STATEMENT. HE WISHES TO UNDERLINE DESIRABILITY OF DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT AND PLAY DOWN POSSIBILITY OF NAVAL CONFRONTATION.

PAGE 2 RBDWC A0098 C O N F I D E N T I A L

2. MIFT CONTAINS TEXT OF REDRAFT DESIGNED TO DO THIS. SECRETARY OF STATE WILL READ IT IN THE PLANE AND WILL WISH TO DISCUSS IT ON ARRIVAL WITH MR LUCE AND THE DEPARTMENT.

BT

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C S 1 CNS

CYL 1 CPR

CYG 1 DIC

CXU 2 DNOT

C J 1 DS 11/12

C J 1 DS 17

C G 1 DS 5

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

ENCL No.
45

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

C 4002 30/0049 08900104

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IMMEDIATE 292300Z MAR 82

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C J	1	DS 17
C G	1	DS 5

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CWG001 30/0040 089C0100

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 292301Z MAR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK NAVY

C O N F I D E N T I A L
SIC A3A/A2M (SICS ADDED BY DCE)

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DESKBY 300800Z
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TO IMMEDIATE F C O
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SOUTH GEORGIA

M I P T

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE:

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BEGINS:

AS MY NOBLE FRIEND, LORD TREFGARNE, INFORMED THE HOUSE ON 23 MARCH, A GROUP OF ARGENTINES, EMPLOYED BY A COMMERCIAL CONTRACTOR, MR DAVIDOFF, AN ARGENTINE CITIZEN, LANDED AT LEITH HARBOUR ON SOUTH GEORGIA ON 19 MARCH FROM AN ARGENTINE NAVAL TRANSPORT VESSEL. MR DAVIDOFF HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE NEED TO SEEK THE NECESSARY PERMISSION FROM THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES AT GRYTVIKEN TO LAND AND TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK. HE CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES HIS INTENTION TO DO SO BUT WITH NO NOTICE WHATEVER OF THE TIMING OF HIS EMPLOYEES' DEPARTURE. WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT LEITH THEY HAD NOT OBTAINED THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION; AND WHEN REQUESTED BY THE BASE COMMANDER TO PROCEED TO GRYTVIKEN IN ORDER TO DO SO, THEY FAILED TO COMPLY. MR DAVIDOFF'S COMMERCIAL CONTRACT IS STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUT IT DOES NOT ABSOLVE HIM OR HIS EMPLOYEES FROM COMPLYING WITH NORMAL IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES.

IN PRACTICE, OF THE 60 ARGENTINIANS WHO HAD LANDED AT LEITH, ABOUT 50 DID THEN EMBARK ON BOARD THE ARGENTINIAN SHIP AND LEFT THE TERRITORY. FOR REASONS THAT ARE NOT CLEAR TO US, ABOUT A DOZEN MEN REMAINED ON SHORE. THIS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE SCALE OF

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THE PROBLEM AND WE SOUGHT THE COOPERATION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN ARRANGING FOR THEIR REMOVAL, MAKING CLEAR THAT WE REGARDED THEM AS AN ILLEGAL ARGENTINE PRESENCE ON BRITISH

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TERRITORY, BUT ONE WHICH COULD BE REGULARISED BY THE PRESENTATION OF THEIR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AT GRYTVIKEN. FIRST INDICATIONS FROM BUENOS AIRES WERE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WOULD COOPERATE IN THIS EXERCISE. BUT IN FACT IT THEREAFTER EMERGED THAT THEY DID NOT INTEND TO COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST. ACCORDINGLY HMS ENDURANCE WAS ORDERED TO PROCEED TO THE AREA TO BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST AS NECESSARY. SHE HAS BEEN STANDING BY AT GRYTVIKEN SINCE 24 MARCH.

ON 25 MARCH AN ARGENTINE VESSEL DELIVERED FURTHER EQUIPMENT TO THE GROUP ASHORE. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SAID THAT ARGENTINE PERSONNEL IN SOUTH GEORGIA WILL BE GIVEN THE FULL PROTECTION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THE DESPATCH OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS TO THE AREA HAS BEEN REPORTED.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT MUCH REGRET THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREBY DRAMATISED A SITUATION WHICH, IN ITSELF, IS OF

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RELATIVELY MINOR SIGNIFICANCE. SOUTH GEORGIA IS AN UNINHABITED DEPENDENCY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TERRITORY. WE ARE IN NO DOUBT WHATEVER OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER SOUTH GEORGIA, AS OVER THE FALKLANDS THEMSELVES. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE THEREFORE BY THESE ARGENTINE WORKMEN, WITH THE APPARENT COLLUSION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, IS, AT LAW, AN INFRINGEMENT OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY. WE CANNOT ACCEPT IT.

EQUALLY, WE BELIEVE IN KEEPING A SENSE OF PROPORTION. WE CAN SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE NAVIES IN THIS SITUATION AND WE REGARD IT AS OUR CLEAR DUTY TO PURSUE, WITH ALL THE IMAGINATION AND ENERGY AT OUR DISPOSAL, A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION OF THIS SMALL, BUT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, MATTER. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, IN REFLECTING ON THE SITUATION, WILL TAKE THE SAME VIEW. WE INTEND TO PURSUE OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THE PRESENT TENSION AND TO ACHIEVE A RATIONAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA. I BELIEVE THE HOUSE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT TO RELEASE AT THIS STAGE DETAILS OF OUR CURRENT EXCHANGES WOULD MAKE THEM LESS RATHER THAN MORE LIKELY TO SUCCEED.

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THE HOPE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IS THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS. THAT IS THE OBJECTIVE FOR WHICH I AM WORKING AND I TRUST THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, I CAN GIVE THE HOUSE THE ASSURANCE THAT HMS ENDURANCE WILL REMAIN ON STATION. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE HOUSE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I PREFER TO SAY NOTHING IN PUBLIC ABOUT ANY FURTHER PRECAUTIONARY MOVES THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN.

ENDS.

EUTLER
BT