

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCL No.
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FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 050045Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
CINCFLEET

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY

SIC A3A/A2M/19F

FM FCO 050045Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 111 OF 5 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA

SOUTH GEORGIA: REMOVAL OF BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY PERSONNEL

1. FOLLOWING ARGENTINE INVASION OF SOUTH GEORGIA WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROYAL MARINES WERE REMOVED BY ARGENTINE FORCES. AT THAT TIME BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY (BAS) PERSONNEL WERE DISPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

13 AT GRYTVIKEN:

4 AT THE LYELL GLACIER HUT IN CUMBERLAND WEST BAY:

4 ON BIRD ISLAND

2 AT SCHLIEPER BAY

3 TOGETHER WITH MISS BUXTON AND MISS PRICE AT ST ANDREWS BAY

PARTIES ARE STILL IN POSITION BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE ARGENTINES HAVE REMOVED THOSE BAS PERSONNEL AT GRYTVIKEN.

2. THE USE OF ENDURANCE TO TAKE OFF THE BAS PERSONNEL HAS BEEN RULED OUT FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE USE OF RRS BRANSFIELD UNDER THE SWISS PROTECTIVE POWER BUT NERC CONSIDER THAT THE RISKS OF HER BEING TAKEN HOSTAGE ARE ALSO TOO GREAT.

3. WOULD YOU THEREFORE PLEASE ASK THE SWISS TO INFORM THE ARGENTINES ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF BAS PERSONNEL AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 1 SAYING THAT WITH WINTER CLOSING IN THE FIELD PARTIES AT LYELL GLACIER HUT, SCHLIEPER BAY AND ST ANDREWS BAY WILL SOON BE AT RISK. WE SHOULD THEREFORE WISH TO KNOW THE ARGENTINES' INTENTIONS REGARDING ALL THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN SOUTH GEORGIA AND WHETHER THEIR PLANS ARE FOR TAKING THEM OFF THE ISLAND AND ARRANGING FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE UK.

4. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE SWISS THAT THE ICRC (RED CROSS) HAVE ASKED US WHETHER THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH THEY COULD HELP IN THE PRESENT DISPUTE AND THAT WE HAVE WELCOMED THEIR INTEREST. IF THE SWISS FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN ASSOCIATING THE ICRC WITH THEIR APPROACH TO THE ARGENTINES WE WOULD FIND THIS PRESENTATIONALLY HELPFUL.

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BT

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