

SECRET

3/9/2  
27

ALW 040/325/10



News Dept will know best how to handle this. But I suggest that they should avoid giving his impression that they have these answers too pat. In the first instance, they might merely offer to enquire.

Mr Harding  
PS/DUS  
PS/Mr Ridley  
Mr Fern, News Dept. (Personal)

cc  
PS

ALW 040/325/10

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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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Harding  
2 Sept.

MR RIDLEY'S VISIT TO GENEVA

- I attach a draft defensive line for use with the press, should there be any questions about the above.

The meeting has not so far attracted questions. Should it do so, I will ask for the papers to be returned.

G A Duggan

PA Bere  
celb  
19/9

G A Duggan  
South America Dept.

2 September 1980

19/ix.



1. (If asked) Was/Why was Mr Ridley in Geneva?

Mr Ridley visited the Geneva area privately between 9 and 12 September with his wife for a short holiday break and to do a little water colour painting.

2. Why the secrecy?

It is not normal to announce private ministerial holiday visits abroad.

3. (If asked) Is it true that he met an Argentine Minister/Comodoro Cavandoli?

Comodoro Cavandoli appears to have been making a visit to a number of European countries, including Switzerland. He knows and contacted Mr Ridley. They met briefly on a personal basis.

4. What did they discuss: the Falkland Islands?

Mr and Mrs Ridley were on a private holiday. But when Mr Ridley saw Comodoro Cavandoli, not unnaturally they did touch briefly on questions involved in Anglo-Argentine relations, including the Falkland Islands. But there was no formal exchange on any subject.

*we do not know what they talked about: it was purely a social occasion.*

5. (If asked) Was Mr Ridley accompanied by a senior official?

No. He travelled privately with his wife.

6. Wasn't Mr Harding in Geneva?

Mr Harding did stay privately with the Head of our Permanent Mission, Mr Marshall, in Geneva around that time. Mr Marshall is a personal friend.

7. Negotiations with Argentina on the Falkland Islands

Mr Ridley held exploratory talks with Comodoro Cavandoli in New York last April. We hope to continue these exchanges but no dates have yet been fixed. Lord Carrington may well be seeing the Argentine Foreign Minister in New York later this month in the margins of the UN General Assembly and may touch on this subject.