

Alw 040/325/12

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GRS 53
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 261230Z NOV 80
TO FLASH PORT STANLEY (FOR FEARN)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 120 OF 26 NOVEMBER
REPEATED INFO ROUTINE BUENOS AIRES
MY TEL NO 119: MR RIDLEY'S VISIT

News Dept
(see below)
⑤

1. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST.
BEFORE PM'S QUESTIONS AND CABINET TOMORROW, GRATEFUL BY 261500Z
FOR PROGRESS REPORT.

CARRINGTON

DISTRIBUTION:

- LIMITED PS/MR RIDLEY
- SAMD PS/PUS
- NEWS D MR DAY
- PS MR HARDING
- PS/LPS

ALW 040/325/12
RESTRICTED

GPS 250

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DESKBY 261130Z

FROM F C O 252235Z NOV 80.

TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

TELEGRAM NUMBER 119 OF 25 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES.

Keep

FOLLOWING FROM NEWS DEPARTMENT.

1. THE TIMES HAVE TELEPHONED REFERENCE A REPORT SAID TO EMANATE FROM THE FALKLANDS TO THE EFFECT THAT AT A MEETING WITH THE ISLANDERS MR RIDLEY HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE ISLANDS BE TRANSFERRED TO ARGENTINA, AND THAT BRITAIN THEN LEASE THEM BACK: THAT A 200 MILE LIMIT BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE JOINT EXPLORATION OF THE RESOURCES: THAT SUCH STEPS WOULD LEAD TO AN INJECTION OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL, AND THAT FROM A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT BRITAIN WOULD GAIN A GREATER MAJORITY IN THE U.N. AS IT WOULD BE SEEN AS THE END OF BRITISH COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

2. NEWS DEPARTMENT HAVE EXPLAINED THAT AS REPORTS ON MR RIDLEY'S TALKS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED, THIS PARTICULAR REPORT COULD NEITHER BE CONFIRMED NOR DENIED. SPOKESMAN HOWEVER REMINDED THE TIMES OF THE EARLIER TALKS LEADING TO MR RIDLEY'S VISIT AND GAVE THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED:-

(I) Q. ARE THERE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

A. THERE ARE NO PROPOSALS AS SUCH. THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING SINCE THE APRIL EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH THE ARGENTINES, HOW BEST TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A SOLUTION OF THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. MR RIDLEY IS NOW CONSULTING THE ISLANDERS TO ESTABLISH THEIR VIEWS ON A BASIS FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH THE ARGENTINES.

(II) Q. DO YOU INTEND TO CEDE SOVEREIGNTY ?

A. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION WHICH EVERYONE COULD LIVE WITH SO AS TO END THIS DISPUTE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS: IF THEY AGREE, WE CAN EXPLORE THE POSSIBLE BASES FOR A SOLUTION. NO SOLUTION CAN BE FINALLY AGREED WITHOUT THE ENDORSEMENT OF BOTH THE ISLANDERS AND PARLIAMENT.

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