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SECRET DEYOU

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OO BUENOS AIRES DESKBY 052030Z

GRS 354

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FM FCO 051746Z DECEMBER 80

TO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 244 OF 5 DECEMBER

FROM PS/MR RIDLEY.

YOUR TELS. NOS. 285 AND 286: FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. ORTIZ DE ROZAS HAS RELAYED SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM CAVANDOLI. WE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT WE UNDERSTAND AND SYMPATHISE WITH CAVANDOLI'S DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES: BUT IT IS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR MR RIDLEY TO MEET HIM, EITHER OPENLY OR OTHERWISE, AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE. WE RECOGNISE, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH ON HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION AND THIS MIGHT BEST BE FIRST DISCUSSED WHEN ORTIZ CALLS ON MR RIDLEY, AS ARRANGED, ON 9 DECEMBER. ORTIZ WILL BE RELAYING THIS BACK.

2. ORTIZ DID NOT MENTION ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION IN YOUR TELNO. 285. BUT WE WILL BE CONSIDERING THIS BEFORE ORTIZ'S CALL ON 9 DECEMBER.

3. WE ARE OF COURSE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEMS AND OF THE NEED TO GET THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD WITHOUT EITHER SIDE FORECLOSING ANY OPTIONS. IT IS FOR THE ARGENTINES TO DECIDE ON HOW THEY SHOULD HANDLE THEIR PUBLIC LINE. BUT, AS A FIRST THOUGHT, SOMETHING ON THE FOLLOWING LINES MIGHT HELP THEM TO MEET THE MAIN POINTS OF CRITICISM:

BEGINS

'WE ARE UNHAPPY AT BEING SPECTATORS TO THE OPEN DISCUSSION OF ISSUES OF DIRECT IMPORTANCE TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. WE ARE AWARE, FROM PRESS REPORTS, OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT TO PEOPLE IN THE ISLANDS. ALL OF THESE WOULD POSE DIFFICULTIES TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE AS A BASIS FOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS. BUT NO FORMAL PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE TO US AND, UNTIL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DOES SO, IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO SPECULATE.

ALW 040/325/10

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INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr Sydney  
my Briggs  
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WE HAVE OF COURSE MADE CLEAR OUR WISH TO SEE SUBSTANTIVE  
NEGOTIATIONS UNDERTAKEN SOON.'  
ENDS.

GRATEFUL FOR ANY COMMENTS BY 1500Z ON 8 DECEMBER.

4. PARA 3 OF SECOND TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. WE CAN  
CONSIDER THIS SUGGESTION BEFORE THE MEETING WITH ORTIZ DE ROSAS:  
OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT TO GIVE SUCH AN INTERVIEW WOULD  
NOT HELP MEET ARGENTINE DIFFICULTIES, AND THAT INTERVIEWEE  
WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY NO MORE TO BBC THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN RELEASED  
TO ARGENTINE MEDIA.

CARRINGTON

NNNN

LIMITED	PS/MR RIDLEY
HD/SAMD	PS/PUS
PS	MR DAY
PS/LPS	MR HARDING