

GRS 300

UNCLASSIFIED

FM BUENOS AIRES 02/1742Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 57 OF 02 MARCH 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK

ms

FALKLANDS TALKS : ARGENTINE PRESS COMMENT

1. THE FALKLANDS TALKS ARE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN MOST OF TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS. THE TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (UKMIS TELNO 187) IS WIDELY REPRODUCED, BUT IS OVERSHADOWED BY THE TEXT OF A SEPARATE ARGENTINE STATEMENT WHICH WAS ISSUED BY THE MFA YESTERDAY EVENING (TEXT IN MIFT). THIS (ISSUED BEFORE UNDERSECRETARY ROS'S RETURN TO BA) REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS WITHIN A QUOTE SHORT UNQUOTE TIME-PERIOD AND TO ARGENTINA'S RESERVATION OF THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THIS PROCEDURE IN FAVOUR OF OTHERS IF IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE LEADING TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT.

2. IN A GLOSS ON THE STATEMENT, AN UNNAMED GOVERNMENT SOURCE, QUOTED BY LA NACION, RECALLED CAMILION'S ASSERTION THAT THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE FALKLANDS WAS QUOTE UNSUSTAINABLE UNQUOTE AND CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE SOME, ALBEIT SLIGHT, INDICATION THAT HMG HELD THE SAME VIEW. HE SAID THAT VARIOUS PLANS WERE ALREADY BEING PREPARED FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. THESE INCLUDED ARGENTINE PROPOSALS FOR GUARANTEES FOR THE ISLANDERS' ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS INTERESTS, INCLUDING A SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION OR PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY OF ANY ISLANDERS WHO DECIDED TO LEAVE. HE STATED THAT THERE WERE ALSO PARALLEL PLANS ALREADY FORMULATED IN CASE THE ENVISAGED MEETINGS DID NOT PRODUCE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARDS A SOLUTION ; AMONG THESE WERE RECOURSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND VARIOUS MEASURES WHICH COULD AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS, SUCH AS THE BREAKING OFF OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, POLITICAL RELATIONS, AND FINALLY A TOTAL RUPTURE OF RELATIONS. THE SAME SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK LOCALLY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTINA USING FORCE TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE, HE PREFERRED QUOTE AT THE MOMENT UNQUOTE TO DISCOUNT SUCH SUGGESTIONS.

WILLIAMS

STANDARD

S AM D

MAED

UND

ES & SD

SPD

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS