

GPS 253

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ENDERS IN BUENOS AIRES

1. THOMAS ENDERS, US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, VISITED BUENOS AIRES FROM SUNDAY 6 TO TUESDAY 8 MARCH. HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT GALTIERI, THE FOREIGN MINISTER COSTA MENDEZ, AND THE MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY, ROBERTO ALEMANN. HE ALSO ADDRESSED THE ARGENTINE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CARI), AND GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE US EMBASSY BEFORE DEPARTURE.

2. PRESS COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE, STRESSING THE CLOSENESS OF ARGENTINE-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE CURRENT CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION. LA PRENSA SUGGESTED THAT ENDERS HAD ASKED TO BE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE ON THE FALKLANDS NEGOTIATIONS, AND HAD BEEN GIVEN A VERY FULL REPORT. QUOTE CLARIN UNQUOTE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HIS REMARKS AT CARI CONCERNING SECURITY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC IN THE FACE OF INCREASING SOVIET ACTIVITY THERE.

3. THE MFA'S DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, OLMOS, EITHER COULD NOT, OR WOULD NOT, ELABORATE ON THE PRESS REPORTS OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE FALKLANDS. THE AMERICAN DCM, RUSER, HOWEVER, TOLD H OF C THAT ENRIQUE ROS, ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, GAVE A DETAILED BUT LOW-KEY DESCRIPTION OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION. AS FAR AS RUSER KNEW, ENDERS DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, ADVISE THE ARGENTINES TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE DOWN AS WE HAD SUGGESTED. RUSER SAW THE VISIT AS ESSENTIALLY A POLITICAL GESTURE, FURTHERING US LINKS WITH THE CURRENT ARGENTINE REGIME.

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