

ALW 040/325/2		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18		
1 4 AUG 1980		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
		✓

1) Mr Cole 29/8 Reg  
 2) Mr [unclear] 29/8  
 3) Mr Bignone 29/8  
 H.C.E.B.  
 Mr [unclear]  
 cc Mr Nardino  
 29/8

HMA

For information

Mr Heathcote

**FALKLANDS DISPUTE: INTEREST OF THE ARMY COMMAND**

1. Through Mr Ankerson, Colonel Zambonini, Foreign Relations Adviser to General Bignone, (the Secretary General of the Army), and to General Galtieri, (Commander in Chief of the Army), recently expressed an interest in talking about the Falklands dispute. Not put off by what Mr Ankerson had to say he asked to see someone who specialised in the subject and the two of us called on him last week.

2. Colonel Zambonini clearly knew little or nothing about the current state of talks. Indeed he complained that the Foreign Ministry kept the information to themselves. He was anxious to hear about ideas for a possible solution. I spoke to him on familiar lines about the nature of the community in the Falklands and our commitment to do nothing for which we could not carry Islander opinion. The round of exploratory talks in New York had been the first discussion in depth at ministerial level since the Conservative administration took over in Britain last year and it was now a question of waiting for British Government ministers to decide on the next step. When the Colonel persisted in asking about possible solutions I said that the various ideas that had been floated over the years were well known to all concerned and at this stage it was better to wait until HMG had something more to say on the matter before discussing any of the ideas in particular. Colonel Zambonini finally took the message and brought our call to a close. He suggested vaguely that we might keep in touch but stressing that if the British side had any ideas to put forward they were welcome to do so directly to the army as well as through the Foreign Ministry. He also said that the army could force the MFA to increase the pace of talks if necessary.

3. Mr Ankerson tells me that Colonel Zambonini had spoken to General Galtieri, the Army Commander, before our call. Apparently General Galtieri said that if the British had anything concrete to put forward, then the army would take over, from the Foreign Ministry, responsibility for the negotiations.

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2		
RECEIVED IN TECHNICAL DIVISION		
1 AUG 1980		
INDEX	PA	REGISTRY
Action Taken		

4. The interest in all this, I think, is that although the dispute remains relatively quiescent at present, certain individuals in government or the army forces remain ready to jump on the band wagon of any possible solution in order to burnish their own image. When I next have a chat with one of the Foreign Ministry people from the Malvinas Department, I shall mention in passing that I called on Colonel Zambonini. Otherwise they may hear of the call and suspect that we are up to something behind their backs.

*R.H.T.*

30 July 1980

R H T Gozney

ccs: C C Bright Esq - SAND, FCO ✓  
M W Growcott Esq - PORT STANLEY

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