

GPS 310
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 300900Z
FM WASHINGTON 300038Z
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELNO 1024 OF 29 MARCH 1982,
INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES.

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Aw 040/325/12		
30 MAR 1982		

SOUTH GEORGIA

1. I CALLED THIS EVENING ON DEPUTY SECRETARY STOESSEL AT HIS REQUEST. HE SAID THAT HAIG, WHO HAD RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO NATIONS WHO WERE FRIENDS OF THE US. HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE RESTRAINT ON BOTH SIDES, AND INSISTED THAT THE US WOULD NOT TAKE SIDES. I REPLIED THAT THE AMERICANS COULD SURELY NOT BE NEUTRAL IN A CASE OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF SOVEREIGN BRITISH TERRITORY. THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF THEIR TERRITORY, THEY SHOULD NOT CONDONE SUCH A THING HAPPENING IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. (65)
2. I EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND AND DESCRIBED OUR SINCERE EFFORTS TO REACH AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT. STOESSEL SAID THAT WHILE THE AMERICANS DID NOT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN RESOLVING THE UNDERLYING DISPUTE OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, THEY WERE NONETHELESS WILLING TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM ON SOUTH GEORGIA. HE SUGGESTED THAT A BRITISH OFFICIAL MIGHT TRAVEL FROM GRYTVEKEN TO LEITH TO AUTHORIZE THE ARGENTINES, PRESENCE THERE. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD BE WILLING TO PUT THE SUGGESTION TO HMG, PROVIDED THE AMERICANS COULD ASSURE US THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARGENTINES? HE INSTRUCTED HIS OFFICIALS TO FIND OUT. I REFERRED TO THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES OF ADMIRAL HAYWARD. WOULD HE NOT HELP IN HIS CONTACTS WITH THE ARGENTINIANS? STOESSEL UNDERTOOK TO TAKE THIS UP.
3. I LEFT STOESSEL IN NO DOUBT THAT WHILE HMG REMAINED ANXIOUS TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE DOWN, WE COULD NOT ALLOW ARGENTINA TO ASSERT A CLAIM IN THIS WAY TO A BRITISH POSSESSION.
4. STOESSEL SAID THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY CALLED IN THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD APPEARED UNBRIEFED.

HENDERSON

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ADDITIONAL DISTN.
FAKLAND ISLANDS

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