

ALW 000/325/5

RECEIVED

6 DEC 1979

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr Harding

Ps/Mr Ridley

SOUTHERN THULE: RADIO HAMS

Problem

1. Port Stanley has reported that the Argentine amateur radio station on Southern Thule (manned by Argentine Navy personnel) has started operating again. There are implications for sovereignty.

Recommendation

2. I recommend that our Embassy raise the matter orally with the MFA. I submit a draft telegram. Legal Advisers concur.

Background

3. We protested formally in December 1978, when we learnt that navigation beacons had been erected near the Argentine scientific base on Thule; and a ham radio station had been licensed using an Argentine call-sign.

4. We also raised the subject at the Geneva negotiations in December 1978. Sr Oliveri Lopez told Mr Hall that the Argentines had silenced the station for the moment until they had completed their enquiries.

5. Broadcasting resumed in February 1979 but ceased after our Embassy spoke informally to the Malvinas Department. (The Foreign Ministry is in the hands of the Air Force. The base at Thule is operated by the Navy. Last February the Foreign Ministry appeared to have the upper hand.)

/Argument

THIS IS A COPY  
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN  
CLOSED FOR  
47 YEARS UNDER FOI  
EXEMPTION No. 27(D)(C)

Argument

6.



To lodge a further formal protest could risk raising the temperature in our relations with Argentina in a period which might precede further discussions. To take no action could further erode our claim over the South Sandwich Islands, and possibly attract criticism in Parliament and from the Islanders themselves (who are intensely irritated by the broadcasts in question). The most appropriate course, which Mr Carless also favours, would be for him to speak informally to Sr Oliveri Lopez on the lines of FCO telegram no. 39.

lag D

lag E (9)

P R Fearn  
South America Dept.

28 November 1979

I agree with the recommendation

Yes - so do I - but let us  
be prepared to go a little  
further than the recommendation  
if it doesn't do the trick  
NR

29 Nov