

(43)

Tel issued after discussion with Secs A State.

25/3

Mr Ure ✓
PS/Mr Luce ✓

AW 949/325/12	
REC'D	25 MAR 1982
INDEX	

ILLEGAL LANDING AT SOUTH GEORGIA

- A 1. The Argentine Foreign Minister has now responded
 B unhelpfully to our request that the Argentine Government
 arrange for the urgent removal of the remaining Argentine
 personnel from South Georgia. We meanwhile have information
 from secret sources that the Argentine Navy are mobilising a
 military response if HMS Endurance moves to take the men off:
 C and our Embassy have provided an assessment of Argentine
 military intentions.
2. Our Ambassador is meeting Dr Costa Mendez again at
 1400 hours today and needs instructions. I submit a draft
 telegram.
3. The MOD are meanwhile urgently assessing the defence
 implications and their view will be available for the
 Secretary of State's meeting at 1215 hours. But it is
 clear that unless this problem can be resolved by diplomatic
 action, there is a real risk of a military confrontation
 which we are in no position to win.

P.R. Fearn

P R Fearn
South America Dept

25 March 1982

1 Burg 25/3.

cc PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Defence Dept

AB 25/3

Mr Giffard

25/3