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TELELETTER GRPS 600

TO : FCO

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FILE REF/ : 492/1 DATE : 05 DECEMBER 1980

FOLLOWING FOR : C C BRIGHT ESQ, SAMD, FCO ✓

COPIES TO (BY BAG) : M W GROWCOTT ESQ, PORT STANLEY

FROM : R H T GOZNEY ESQ, BUENOS AIRES

FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE ATTEMPTS TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY

1. OVER THE PAST WEEK THE ARGENTINES HAVE TAKEN THREE ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS TO TRY AND GIVE CONTENT TO THEIR SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES:

(A) A NOTARY HAS BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE ARGENTINE REGISTRY COVERING NOTARIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FALKLANDS, (CORRESPONDENCE RESTING WITH MY LETTER OF 25 APRIL TO GERALD DAVIES). HE IS JORGE A BOLLINI, PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF NOTARIES AND OF THE COLLEGE OF NOTARIES HERE IN BUENOS AIRES. THE CEREMONY AT WHICH HE WAS APPOINTED WAS GIVEN GOOD PRESS COVERAGE AND ATTENDED BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF WORTHIES FROM HIS STAFF, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF NOTARIES AND THE COLLEGE OF NOTARIES. THIS APPOINTMENT IS ONLY THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION OF THE MOVES MADE TO ESTABLISH THE REGISTRY EARLIER IN THE YEAR. WE HAVE ALREADY COVERED OUR POSITION WITH A PROTEST, (YOUR LETTER ALW 376/325/1 OF 7 MAY).

(B) THE ARGENTINE POST OFFICE (ENTEL) ANNOUNCED ON 26 NOVEMBER THAT THEY WERE SETTING UP A BRANCH AT THE SCIENTIFIC STATION QUOTE CORBETA URUGUAY UNQUOTE. THIS STATION WAS DESCRIBED AS LYING IN THE ARGENTINE SECTOR OF THE ANTARCTIC BUT AS WE KNOW IS THE ARGENTINE NAVAL ESTABLISHMENT ON SOUTHERN

ANTARCTIC SECTOR THE ARGENTINES HAVE FOR MANY YEARS BEEN RUNNING POST OFFICES THERE AND THIS NEW ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, IS THE THIRTEENTH TO BE ESTABLISHED. BUT SINCE SOUTHERN THULE LIES WITHIN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS' DEPENDENCIES RATHER THAN THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY, THE LEGAL ADVISERS MAY, I IMAGINE, WISH US TO COVER OUR SOVEREIGNTY POSITION.

(C) THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT THEY HAD APPROVED ARGENTINE ADHERENCE TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES, A CONVENTION INITIALED IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH 1973 (WITH APPENDICES AGREED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER 1976 AND MARCH 1979). IN ANNOUNCING THEIR APPROVAL, THROUGH DECREE NUMBER 22344 OF 1 DECEMBER 1980, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT ADDED THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:-

QUOTE THE MALVINAS ISLANDS FORM PART OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND ADMINISTRATIVELY FORM PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO, THE ANTARCTIC AND THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. THEIR OCCUPATION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM, THROUGH AN ACT OF FORCE NEVER ACCEPTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA, WAS TAKEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH, THROUGH RESOLUTION NUMBERS 2065 AND 3160, INVITED THE TWO PARTIES TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE OVER THE ISLANDS, NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH ARE IN TRAIN UNQUOTE.

2. THAT THESE THREE MINOR MOVES TO BUTRESS THE ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM HAVE COME IN QUICK SUCCESSION IS PROBABLY A COINCIDENCE. THE ARGENTINE BUREAUCRACY DICTATES THAT EACH TAKES WEEKS OR MONTHS OF PREPARATION. BUT FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE IT IS A FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE - WHILE THEY ARE RESTRAINING THEMSELVES FROM MAKING ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON MR RIDLEY'S VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS THEY CAN AT LEAST POINT TO THESE MOVES, ALBEIT MINOR, IN PURSUIT OF THEIR CLAIM.

SIGNED: R H T GOZNEY

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