

~~SECRET~~

[TYPISTS AA]

018051930Z

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30/31) (32) (35)

IMMEDIATE

PS
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR ONSLOW
 PS/PUS
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ~~WILLIAMS~~ BULLARD
 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE
 MR EVANS
 ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
 ED/DEF D
 ED/NEWS D
 ED/UND
 ED/PLANNING STAFF
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS WSO
 RESIDENT CLERK
 HD/WED
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 HD/TRED
 (Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
 PS/CHANCELLOR)
 SIR K COUZENS)
 MR LITTLER)
 MR HASTIN) TREASURY
 MR PERETZ)
 MR ILETT)
 MR MCINTYRE)
 MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN
 DIO CABINET OFFICE
 MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
 MR FULLER SAPW/DIG " "
 SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
 SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 051930Z

FM PARIS 051725Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 425 OF 5 MAY 1982

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE OTHER EC POSTS

YOUR TELNO 96 TO BRUSSELS: ARGENTINA: IMPORT BAN

1. THE FRENCH POSITION SEEMS TO BE SHIFTING SOMEWHAT IN RESPONSE TO CLASHES AROUND THE FALKLANDS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. I AM REPORTING SEPARATELY THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER TODAY'S MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE COMMUNIQUE WITH GUTMANN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE QUAI.

2. IN ESSENCE THE FRENCH ARE MAINTAINING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE BASIC UK POSITION, BUT ARE PLACING INCREASING EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR A CONVINCING GESTURE BY THE UK WHICH WILL CONFIRM OUR INTENTION TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THEY CONTINUE TO AFFIRM PRIVATELY THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR THE UK TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION, BUT HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE WEIGHT OF HOSTILE COMMENT

BUT HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE WEIGHT OF HOSTILE COMMENT IMPLICIT IN FRENCH PRESS REPORTS ON RECENT INCIDENTS AND ARE THEREFORE TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION IN FAVOUR OF THE IMMEDIATE ENDING OF HOSTILITIES.

3. LOGICALLY THIS POSITION SHOULD IMPLY FRENCH READINESS TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, SINCE WITHOUT THEM THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW OR TO SEEK A GENUINE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THE LESS THEY CAN PUBLICLY ENDORSE MILITARY ACTION, THE MORE THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ENDORSE THE CONTINUED NEED FOR ECONOMIC ACTION. ANY OTHER COURSE WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE ORIGINAL DECISION OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, WHICH HAS BEEN REGULARLY REAFFIRMED BY MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HERE, TO GIVE FIRM BACKING TO THE UK. THERE MAY HOWEVER BE A DISPOSITION TO ARGUE THAT ANY RENEWAL OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MORE DEFINITE COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATIONS.

4. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE REQUIRE A FRENCH LEAD IN ORDER TO HELP CONVINCING OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS, IT WOULD BE WORTH CONSIDERING A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO MITTERRAND TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF 26 APRIL THANKING MITTERRAND AND CHEYSSON FOR THE ACTION THEY TOOK WITH THE JAPANESE ONLY ARRIVED IN PARIS BY BAG YESTERDAY. IT HAS BEEN IN LARGE PART OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND WOULD NOW BE MORE USEFUL IF IT WERE UPDATED TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION ON SANCTIONS. IT MIGHT ALSO REFER TO THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATION. I WILL HOLD THE LETTER UNTIL I RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

FRETWELL

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SENT/RECD AT 051808Z JC/RR