

INMEDIATE

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OO FCO

GRS 215

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL

FROM PORT STANLEY 221236Z MAR 1982

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 44 OF 22 MARCH

PS
PS/LPS
PS/withheld
PS/withheld
PS/pus
Mr Giltland
Mr [unclear]
Hd/Staff
Cab Office

Hd/Def D
Hd/News

~~NO 10 BS~~

MY TELNO 43: ILLEGAL LANDING IN SOUTH GEORGIA.

1. I HAVE AGREED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOU FROM LORD BUXTON, WHO HAS ASKED ME TO STRESS THAT IT IS A PRIVATE AND PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM A BACKBENCHER ON THE SPOT WHICH HE HOPES WILL BE HELPFULL.

2. QUOTE

A. THIS IS MY THIRD VISIT IN TWO YEARS TO ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLANDS AND IN THE LAST MONTH I HAVE ALSO VISITED ARGENTINE AND CHILEAN BASES IN ANTARCTICA, AND FINALLY SOUTH GEORGIA LAST WEEK.

B. IN BUENOS AIRES I HAD A LONG PRIVATE TALK ALONE WITH COSTA MENDEZ WHICH I MENTIONED BRIEFLY TO YOUR COUNCILLOR JOY, BUT ABOUT WHICH I PROPOSE TO REPORT IN DETAIL TO RICHARD LUCE ON 30 MARCH.

C. I ASKED COSTA MENDEZ REPEATED AND DIRECT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AGGRESSION AND GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT OPEN ATTACK WAS UNLIKELY BUT THAT CASUAL UNOPPOSED LANDINGS WERE PROBABLE. HE IMPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER FOR SUCH INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS.

D. MAY I URGE YOU THEREFORE THAT DAVIDOFF'S CONTRACT SHOULD NOW BE RESCINDED SINCE THE TERMS HAVE BEEN IGNORED DELIBERATELY AND REPEATEDLY. ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND THAT SHIP AND MEN ARE NOW REPORTED TO HAVE LEFT LEITH, MAY I URGE THAT ENDURANCE CHECKS OUT THOROUGHLY TO CONFIRM THAT NO ARGENTINES REMAIN IN SOUTH GEORGIA. IF ANY DO REMAIN I FEEL THEY COULD BE THERE INDEFINITELY AND IT WILL PROVE VERY AWKWARD TO GET THEM OUT AT A LATER DATE.

E. IT HAS BEEN NAIVE TO REGARD DAVIDOFF AS A CASUAL SCRAP DEALER AND IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT EVERY MOVE HAS BEEN CAREFULLY RESEARCHED, PLANNED AND TIMED THROUGHOUT. I UNDERSTAND THE VISITS OF ADMIRAL IRIZAR AND BAHIA BUEN SUCESO TO SOUTH GEORGIA HAVE BEEN CLANDESTINE AND SILENT.

CLANDESTINE AND SILENT.

F. IF OUR REACTION IS PLACATORY AND IS NOT FIRM AND FINAL THIS TIME I PREDICT THAT MORE UNOPPOSED ILLEGAL LANDINGS WILL FOLLOW AND PROBABLY NEXT TIME SOMEWHERE IN FALKLANDS. I WILL EXPLAIN ON 30 MARCH HOW MY COSTA MENDEZ TALK SUPPORTS THIS VIEW. BRITISH REACTIONS ARE BEING TESTED AND WORSE WILL FOLLOW IF TIMID ADVICE IS FOLLOWED AND ILLEGALITIES ARE CONDONED.

G. ALTHOUGH CHAIRMAN OF ITN, ETC, I AM OBSERVING SILENCE AND AM SUBJECT TO GOVERNOR'S GUIDANCE. I AM ASKING HIM TO KINDLY FORWARD THE ABOVE TO YOU.

UNQUOTE.

HUNT

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 221326Z BKW/MW

SHOULD TIS NOT BE 003 PSE

KK

[Faint handwritten notes and markings, possibly including dates and names, located in the bottom right corner of the page.]

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