

ALW 040/325/10		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18		
25 SEP 1980		
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BRITISH EMBASSY
BUENOS AIRES

18 September 1980

G W Harding Esq CMG CVO
FCO

Dear Bill

FALKLANDS

I have just had a first private talk with Cavandoli since his return from Coppet. You should know that he is:

- (a) bubbling with pleasure over the company of the four of you;
- (b) very pleased with the contents, even though he is careful to say that, of course, the answer on it is not for him to give;
- (c) nevertheless confident that we are on a fruitful line which should be able to work out;
- (d) joyfully and conspiratorially conscious of the risk from our point of view of even the slightest leak. Not only Oliveri Lopez but even Enrique Ros are being kept wholly in the dark.

I asked him what procedures would now follow on the Argentine side - particularly whether the Junta should now be consulted. He very rapidly answered that the next moves would be:

- (i) the announced meeting of the Secretary of State and Brigadier Pastor next week;
- (ii) the formulation of a definite proposition either via Ortiz de Rozas and myself or at a further clandestine meeting, for submission to the President here at the same time as submission to Cabinet in the UK;
- (iii) the President to report and seek endorsement from the three Commanders in Chief - presumably at the time when we are seeking the acceptance of the Islanders.

I am not sure this works out quite right - and I will not see what you are sending me in the bag until Monday 22 September (when I am up to my eyes with Peter Walker). But at least it shows willingness to put off informing the three Services (which will certainly lead to leaks) until encouragingly late. I should add that he said that, with himself and Pastor for the Air Force and the President for the Army, he did not expect difficulty in the Junta. Perhaps - but the Navy?

/I do

I do congratulate you on what seems to have been a splendid job. I am taking no copy of this letter, so please quote from it if you write asking for more.

I took the opportunity to point out - in sorrow - that both we and the Presidency were being given the run-around by the interrogating magistrate and prosecutor in the case of Anderson, the peccant rugby player. This time I think I convinced him and got him indignant too (which I failed to do before he set out three weeks ago). Let's hope something is now done.

Yours

Anthony.



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18-ix-80

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de Rozas + myself or at a further clandestine meeting for submission to the President here at the same time as submission to Cabinet in the UK. (iii) the President to report + seek endorsement from the 3 Commanders in Chief - primarily at the time when we are seeking the acceptance of the Islanders. I am not sure this works out quite right - and I will not see what you are sending me in the bag until Monday 22 Sept (when I am up to my eyes with Peter Walker). But at least it shows willingness to put off informing the 3 Services (which will certainly lead to leaks) until encouragingly late.*

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I should add that we the Air Force did not expect difficulty in the future. Perhaps - but the Navy said that, with wisely President for the Army the + the in the future.