

AW 076/1

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18		
-2 JUL 1981		
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INDEX 26		Action Taken

(19)

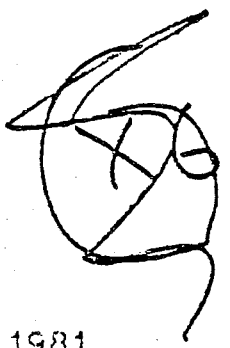
ADVANCE COPY

[LIMITED]

CO FCO (DESKBY 290330Z)

CO BUENOS AIRES

GRS 138
 UNCLASSIFIED
 DESKBY 290330Z
 FROM PORT STANLEY 261505Z JUN 1981
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 121 OF 26 JUNE
 AND IMMEDIATE TO BUENOS AIRES



RC
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 PS/MERIDLEY
 PS (G)
 PS/PUS
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x12

cc McUe
 MOD (DS 5)
 29/6/81 CEB

7) YOUR TELNO 84: HMS ENDURANCE

1. THERE WAS RAPID AND STRONG REACTION TO NEWS OF ENDURANCE WITHDRAWAL. AT REQUEST OF COUNCILLORS I HELD A JOINT MEETING OF EXCO AND LEGCO THIS MORNING AT WHICH MEMBERS ASKED ME TO SEND FOLLOWING MESSAGE.
2. QUOTE THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPLORE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW HMS ENDURANCE FROM SERVICE. THEY EXPRESS EXTREME CONCERN THAT BRITAIN APPEARS TO BE ABANDONING ITS DEFENCE OF BRITISH INTERESTS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND ANTARCTIC AT A TIME WHEN OTHER POWERS ARE STRENGTHENING THEIR POSITION IN THESE AREAS. THEY FEEL THAT SUCH A WITHDRAWAL WILL FURTHER WEAKEN BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY IN THIS AREA IN THE EYES NOT ONLY OF ISLANDERS BUT OF THE WORLD. THEY URGE THAT ALL POSSIBLE ENDEAVOURS BE MADE TO SECURE A REVERSAL OF THIS DECISION UNQUOTE.
3. SEE MIFT FOR COMMENT.

BAKER

Treat as
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NNNN

30/6/81
 CEB

SENT AT 261733Z BKW

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ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/PUS
MR DAY
MR HARDING
HD/S AM D ✓
HD/DEFENCE D
HD/NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE (94)

Aw 076/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18		
-2 JUL 1981		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

CONFIDENTIAL
FROM PORT STANLEY 261915Z JUN 1981
TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKEY 292830Z
TELEGRAM NUMBER 122 OF 26 JUNE
AND IMMEDIATE TO BUENOS AIRES

- 19 MIPT: HMS ENDURANCE
1. COUNCILLORS' REACTIONS REFLECTED INSTANT AND LIVELY LOBBYING FROM POPULACE. JOINT COUNCILS MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY ALL EXCEPT MONK WHO RADIOED COMMENTS ON LINES OF MESSAGE IN MIPT.
 2. I READ SUMMARY OF OVERALL PROPOSED DEFENCE CUTS TO PUT ENDURANCE DECISION INTO PERSPECTIVE AND, IN LOCAL CONTEXT, EMPHASISE THAT RM DETACHMENT IS NOT AFFECTED AND THAT VISITS FROM OTHER RM VESSELS COULD BE EXPECTED.
 3. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT ON THE WHOLE COUNCILLORS ARE RESIGNED TO THE INEVITABILITY OF SOME REDUCTIONS IN THIS AREA BUT FEEL THAT TIMING IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IN THIS CASE IN VIEW OF PRESENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SEPARATE TREATMENT OF ENDURANCE SITUATION AND ALTERNATIVE DECISION WHICH MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD SUCH A DRASTIC LOCAL IMPACT. I WOULD GUESS, HOWEVER, THAT MOST WOULD PRIVATELY ADMIT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT TREATMENT OF ENDURANCE AS A SPECIAL CASE.
 4. ATTITUDES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS WERE INTERESTING. BLAKE AND LUXTON WERE MORE VEHEMENT IN CONDEMNATION THAN I EXPECTED, MILLER LESS SO. ROWLANDS HAD CALMED SINCE YESTERDAY AND MADE USUAL SENSIBLE CONTRIBUTION. BOWLES WAS REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

WITHDRAWAL IS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ISLANDERS TO SETTLE WITH ARGENTINA. THIS VIEW WILL BE PREDOMINANTLY HELD LOCALLY AND WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DISPEL.

5. MORE REASSURANCE WILL BE POSSIBLY IF INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED BY FOLLOWING:

- A) WHAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE ENVISAGED FOR CHANGE OVER OF RM DETACHMENT
- B) HOW FREQUENTLY WILL OTHER RM VESSELS VISIT?
- C) WILL DIESEL OIL SUPPLIES BE AFFECTED (IF YPF JETTY AGREEMENT FAILS)?

6. THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL PROBABLY STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE (AND POSSIBLY NUMBERS) OF THE QUOTE FORTRESS FALKLAND UNQUOTE ELEMENT IT IS GENERALLY SEEN LOCALLY AS A CALCULATED STEP IN THE PROCESS OF ISOLATING FALKLANDS FROM UK IN THE FACE OF INCREASING ARGENTINE PRESSURE. IT IS NOW EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS SHOULD PRODUCE A MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE NEW COUNCIL BUT CORRESPONDINGLY LESS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL.

BAKER

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SENT AT 262006Z BKW