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FM BUENOS AIRES 22/1610Z MAR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 22 MARCH 1982

INFO FLASH PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

INFO IMMEDIATE MOOUK NAVY AND CINCFLEET

YOUR TELNOS 36 AND 38 TO STANLEY : ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA

1. I HAVE NOW SPOKEN TO BLANCO AND ENRIQUE ROS, CONVEYING ALSO WHAT FEARN TOLD MOLteni. IN VIEW OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF STANLEY TELNO 41, I HAVE ALSO WARNED THAT GOVERNOR MAY HAVE MENTIONED PUBLICLY INVOLVEMENT OF HMS ENDURANCE.

2. THE ARGENTINES ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR HELP IN AVOIDING EXAGGERATION. THEY APPRECIATE GRAVITY OF THE HOISTING OF THE ARGENTINE FLAG, BUT SAY THEY HAVE JUST RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A PARALLEL INSULT TO THE ARGENTINE FLAG AT THE LADE OFFICE IN STANLEY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE SHALL BOTH HAVE TO WORK HARD TO AVOID AN EMOTIONAL ESCALATION.

3. I HAVE ASKED BLANCO, IN VIEW OF CONFUSED SITUATION AT THE SCENE WHETHER STN CAN CONFIRM IF ANYONE WAS LEFT AT LEITH. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IF CONTRACTORS MEN ARE STILL THERE, EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO REGULARISE THEIR POSITION RETROSPECTIVELY AND TO ALLOW WORK TO CARRY ON. IT WOULD BE WHOLLY COUNTER PRODUCTIVE TO SEND THEM BACK HERE FOR A HEROES' WELCOME. SIMILARLY I URGE THAT WE REGARD DAVIDOFF AND NOT STN AS THE PRINCIPAL, AS ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD MUCH PREFER, SO THAT THE MATTER CAN BE TREATED AS IRREGULAR BEHAVIOUR BY A BUSINESS INTEREST RATHER THAN SOMETHING INTERGOVERNMENTAL.

WILLIAMS [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.]

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