

GRS255

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL AMENDED DISTRIBUTION - 21 MARCH 1982
FROM F C O 201630Z MAR 82
TO FLASH GOVERNOR FALKLAND ISLANDS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 34 OF 20 MARCH
INFO FLASH BUENOS AIRES
ROUTINE MODUK NAVY

FOR GOVERNOR
YOUR 201125Z: ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA.

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO BASE COMMANDER.

2. MINISTERS ARE BEING CONSULTED URGENTLY ON DEPLOYMENT OF
HMS ENDURANCE AND OF MARINES. WE WILL REVERT SOONEST. MEANWHILE
GRATEFUL FOR IMMEDIATE ADVICE ON:

(A) DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF BAHIA BUEN SUCESO (IE ARMAMENTS AND CREW)
IN RELATION TO THAT OF HMS ENDURANCE:

(B) WHETHER NEWS OF THIS INCIDENT IS LIKELY TO LEAK SOON FROM
PORT STANLEY. WE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL FOR AS
LONG AS POSSIBLE.

3. FOR BUENOS AIRES. YOU SHOULD INFORM ARGENTINE MFA OF SITUATION
IMMEDIATELY AND AT HIGHEST LEVEL AVAILABLE. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR
THAT WE REGARD THIS AS A SERIOUS INCIDENT AND IF THE BAHIA BUEN
SUCESO AND PARTY DO NOT LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA FORTHWITH, WE WILL
HAVE TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION SEEMS NECESSARY. YOU SHOULD GO ON
TO SAY THAT, AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE BOTH CONSIDERING HOW BEST
TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DISPUTE IN ORDER TO RESOLVE IT
PEACEFULLY, IT WOULD BE HARD TO UNDERSTAND IF THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT WERE TO ENDORSE ACTION WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY MAKE
THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM A GREAT DEAL HARDER TO HANDLE. PLEASE
REPORT ARGENTINE REACTION IMMEDIATELY.

CARRINGTON

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CABINET OFFICE

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