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FOR PUS FROM HUNT.

YOUR TELEGRAM 30: FALKLAND ISLANDS INVASION

1. I REGRET TO REPORT THAT AT 1515Z ON 2 APRIL GENERAL GARCIA OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY INFORMED ME (THROUGH HIS INTERPRETER) THAT HE HAD TAKEN OVER AS GOVERNOR OF LAS MALVINAS IN THE NAME OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. I TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD LANDED ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS UNLAWFULLY AND I ORDERED HIM TO DEPART FORTHWITH, TAKING HIS TROOPS WITH HIM. HE SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO, THAT LAS MALVINAS BELONGED TO THE ARGENTINE AND NOW THAT THEY HAD GOT BACK WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS, THEY WOULD STAY FOREVER.

2. HE INFORMED ME THAT I AND ALL MY OFFICIALS WOULD BE FLOWN OUT OF THE ISLANDS AT 021900Z. I ASKED FOR MORE TIME TO PACK AS THEY HAD GIVEN US NO NOTICE OF THEIR COMING. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIS STAFF, HE INSISTED THAT WE MUST LEAVE AS PLANNED AT 1900Z AND HE GAVE A PERSONAL GUARANTEE THAT ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS LEFT BEHIND WOULD BE SAFEGUARDED. I SAID THAT IF ALL EXPATRIATE OFFICIALS LEFT BEFORE HE COULD REPLACE THEM THERE WOULD BE NO GOVERNMENT. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION,

WE AGREED THAT I SHOULD DEPART AS PLANNED AT 1900Z WITH MY FAMILY AND MY DIPLOMATIC STAFF, THE MARINES AND ANY OF THEIR FAMILIES IN STANLEY, AND THAT EXPATRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE

FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN UNTIL THEY COULD BE REPLACED.

3. I WAS ALLOWED TO PACK WHAT I COULD BEFORE 1900Z, THOUGH AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WASTED TIME TRYING TO GET ME TO DIVULGE THE COMBINATIONS TO OUR SECURE AREA. I DID NOT SEE GENERAL GARCIA AGAIN BUT ASKED HIM THROUGH A MESSENGER IF I COULD MAKE A LAST RADIO BROADCAST TO THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. HE AGREED PROVIDED THAT I ALSO BROADCAST A MESSAGE TO GRYTVIKEN TO TELL THEM NOT TO OFFER FURTHER RESISTANCE TO THE LANDING FORCE AS IT WAS POINTLESS. I REFUSED TO DO THIS BUT EVENTUALLY HE AGREED TO MY BROADCASTING TO THE ISLANDERS ON CONDITION THAT I ALSO BROADCAST TO GRYTVIKEN TO TELL THEM OF THE SITUATION IN STANLEY. I HAD TO WRITE OUT THE MESSAGES FOR CENSORING BY HIM BEFORE I WAS ALLOWED TO TAPE THEM FOR BROADCAST. THIS ALL TOOK TIME AND WE LEFT FOR THE AIRPORT EVENTUALLY AT ABOUT 2030Z. I ELECTED TO DRIVE TO THE AIRPORT IN MY CEREMONIAL UNIFORM IN THE TAXI FLYING THE FALKLANDS ISLANDS FLAG. MY ESCORT PROTESTED BUT DID NOT INTERFERE

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UNTIL WE REACHED THE AIRPORT WHEN THEY DID NOT ALLOW MY WIFE TO TAKE THE FLAG. THREE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS SEARCHED THROUGH EVERY SCRAP OF OUR LUGGAGE, WHICH RESULTED IN FURTHER DELAY AND WE DID NOT GET AIRBOURNE BY F23 UNTIL 2250Z. WE LANDED AT COMODORO RIVADAVIA AT 030015Z AND WAITED THERE FOR ABOUT 2 HOURS. WE THEN BOARDED A BOEING 707 WHICH WAS AT THE END OF THE RUNWAY WITH THE MARINES ABOARD. WE FLEW NON-STOP TO MONTEVIDEO, LANDING AT 0545Z.

4. MARINE COMMANDER WILL BRING A FULL REPORT OF THE ACTION WITH HIM BUT I GIVE BELOW THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE DAY (TIMING IS SOMEWHAT HAZY AS THEY TOOK AWAY MY LOG).

0330Z: I WENT ON THE LOCAL RADIO AND TOLD ISLANDERS THE OUTCOME OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. I SAID THAT WE MUST NOW WAIT AND SEE WHAT EFFECT THIS HAD UPON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE NAVY TASK FORCE HEADING FOR THE ISLANDS HAD CHANGED COURSE AND I WARNED THEM THAT, UNLESS IT DID, WE COULD EXPECT IT OFF CAPE PEMBROKE BY FIRST LIGHT (IE 0900Z).

0630Z: AFTER REAGAN'S MESSAGE TO GALTIERI HAD BEEN REBUFFED, I SAW NO POINT IN CONTINUING TO RUN THE RISK OF A SABOTAGE SQUAD IN OUR MIDST AND I ORDERED ALL ARGENTINES TO BE ROUNDED UP AND PUT IN THE TOWN HALL.

0730Z: I DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY. BY THAT TIME, THE MAIN SUSPECTS FROM THE ARGENTINES HAD BEEN ROUNDED UP.

0800Z: SIGHTING OF THREE VESSELS REPORTED, ONE LANDING CRAFT HEADING FOR THE NARROWS AND TWO OTHERS IN PORT WILLIAM WEST OF YORKE BAY. I INSTRUCTED WELLS TO SEND OFF OUR MESSAGE THAT INVASION FORCES WERE LANDING. CABLE AND WIRELESS WERE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THEIR EMERGENCY CIRCUIT AND THEY SUGGESTED TRYING TO REACH YOU THROUGH PORTISHEAD. THAT WAS THE LAST WE HEARD FROM CABLE AND WIRELESS.

0840Z: EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD FROM MOODY BROOK AND SHORTLY AFTER MOVEMENT WAS REPORTED BEHIND GOVERNMENT HOUSE FROM SAPPERS HILL. I INSTRUCTED WELLS TO DESTROY OUR LAST CYPHER MACHINE.

0850Z: GOVERNMENT HOUSE CAME UNDER FIRE. REPORTS FROM MARINE SECTIONS OUT AT YORKE BAY AND THE AIRFIELD TO SAY THAT LANDING CRAFT WERE COMING ASHORE. TWO SECTIONS WERE RECALLED TO REINFORCE GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

0900Z: MARINE SECTION REPORTED POWER HOUSE SURROUNDED, GOVERNMENT HOUSE SURROUNDED AND MORE TROOPS DISEMBARKING. MY LOCAL

0930Z: RADIO TRANSMITTER WENT OFF THE AIR. ENEMY FORCES ATTACKED GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND GOT WITHIN 20 YARDS BEFORE THEY WERE REPULSED. (THREE PRISONERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN FROM THE OUTBUILDINGS). AS DAWN BROKE, IT WAS RELATIVELY QUIET BUT WE OBSERVED THREE WOUNDED LEFT BEHIND.

0945Z: MARINE SECTION REPORTED ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS COMING ASHORE. ESTIMATED 120 (ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY)

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- ✓ TROOPS ON HILLSIDE OVERLOOKING GOVERNMENT HOUSE. FIRING APPEARED TO BE TO PIN US DOWN IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. MARINES WITHDRAWING FROM AIRPORT ROAD MANAGED TO GET BACK TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE WITHOUT LOSS.
- 1000Z: ARMED PERSONNEL CARRIERS REPORTED ON AIRPORT ROAD HEADING FOR STANLEY TOWN (THREE AT FIRST, FOLLOWED QUICKLY BY ANOTHER NINE, ARMED WITH 30 MM CANON).
- 1015Z: I TRIED TO CONTACT VICE COMODORO GILOBERT OF LADE ON THE TELEPHONE.
- 1030Z: MADE CONTACT WITH GILOBERT WHO WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO COME OUT OF HIS HOUSE AND PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF THE WHOLE OPERATION.
- 1045Z: ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS-REPORTED ENTERING TOWN. MANAGED TO PERSUADE GILOBERT TO WALK FROM HIS HOUSE TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE WITH WHITE FLAG TO ACT AS EMISSARY (HE WAS SHOT AT BY HIS OWN TROOPS AS HE REACHED GOVERNMENT HOUSE).
- 1100Z: PERSUADED GILOBERT ACCOMPANIED BY MY CHIEF SECRETARY TO WALK DOWN ROAD FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO MEET APPROACHING ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS. THEY REACHED TOWN HALL WITHOUT SEEING THEM AND REPORTED FROM THERE. WE ISSUED LOCAL RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AND REPLY CAME FROM COMMANDER OF ARGENTINE FORCES TO SAY THAT HE WOULD MEET THEM AT TOWN HALL.
- 1115Z ADMIRAL ACCOMPANIED BY TWO AIDES WALKED BACK TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE WITH GILOBERT AND CHIEF SECRETARY DURING WHICH WE DECLARED A CEASEFIRE (BUT NOT OBSERVED). ADMIRAL BUZIE (?) WAS ESCORTED INTO GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND WE MANAGED TO AGREE AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE SO THAT HE COULD REMOVE HIS THREE BADLY WOUNDED FROM OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND THREE PRISONERS OF WAR. I TOLD HIM HE HAD LANDED UNLAWFULLY AND SHOULD DEPART FORWITH. HE APOLOGISED, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY AND THE SKILL OF THE ROYAL MARINES AND SAID THAT HE WAS NOT THE MILITARY GOVERNOR, WHO WAS AN ARMY GENERAL AND WOULD BE ARRIVING IN ABOUT ONE HOUR'S TIME. HE APPEALED TO ME TO CALL A HALT TO THE FIGHTING OTHERWISE THEY HAD SUCH A SUPERIOR FORCE THAT THEY WOULD INFLICT HEAVY AND NEEDLESS CASUALTIES. I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO AGREE, AND I GAVE THE ORDER TO OUR FORCES TO HAND OVER THEIR ARMS.
- 1200Z: ALL MARINES, EXCEPT THE SURVIVAL TEAM, ACCOUNTED FOR AND GATHERED ON GOVERNMENT HOUSE LAWN.

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1215Z TO

1515Z: SITTING IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE AWAITING CALL FROM GENERAL.
I WANTED HIM TO COME TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE BUT HE WANTED
ME TO GO TO THE TOWN HALL. EVENTUALLY, I AGREED TO GO WITH
VICE COMODORO GILOBERT, OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE BEEN
FORCED TO DO SO WITH A MILITARY ESCORT.

HUTCHINSON

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