

GRS 1000(A)

UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO 022200Z APR 82

TO FLASH BRASILIA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 51 OF 2 APRIL

AND TO FLASH SANTIAGO MONTEVIDEO BUENOS AIRES AND WASHINGTON
AND TO IMMEDIATE LIMA QUITO CARACAS BOGOTA CANBERRA WELLINGTON
OTTAWA AND ALL EC POSTS.

h.a.
1005/4

FALKLANDS.

1. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF LORD CARRINGTON'S AND MR NOTT'S OPENING
STATEMENTS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE FCO AT 1700Z TODAY.

2. LORD CARRINGTON'S STATEMENT BEGINS:

I HAVE TO CONFIRM THAT AN ARGENTINE MILITARY ATTACK ON PORT
STANLEY IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THAT PORT
STANLEY IS NOW OCCUPIED BY ARGENTINE MILITARY FORCES.
HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TOTALLY CONDEMNS THIS UNPROVOKED
AGGRESSION WHICH IS IN FLAGRANT DISREGARD OF THE APPEAL MADE BY
BOTH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY FOR BOTH SIDES TO
REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AND TO RESOLVE PRESENT TENSIONS
BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS.

IT IS WORTH, IF I MAY FOR A MOMENT, LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY
OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS. ON 19 MARCH THE COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH
ANTARCTIC SURVEY AT GRYPVIKEN ON SOUTH GEORGIA REPORTED THAT
AN ARGENTINE NAVY TRANSPORT VESSEL WAS ANCHORED AT NEARBY LEITH
HARBOUR AND A PARTY OF ABOUT 60 ARGENTINIANS
HAD SET UP CAMP AND HAD RAISED THE ARGENTINE FLAG. THE BASE
COMMANDER TOLD THEM THAT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO LAND ON SOUTH
GEORGIA WITHOUT SEEKING THE REQUIRED PERMISSION FROM THE
BRITISH AUTHORITIES AT GRYPVIKEN WHICH IS THE ONLY POINT OF ENTRY
FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES. HE REQUESTED THEM EITHER TO SEEK
THE NECESSARY CLEARANCE OR TO LEAVE.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT SOUGHT IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION FROM
THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, MAKING CLEAR THAT WE REGARDED THIS
ILLEGAL PRESENCE AS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS AND ASKING THE ARGENTINES
TO ARRANGE FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE SHIP AND THE PARTY. THE
SHIP AND MOST OF THE PARTY DID LEAVE ON 22 MARCH. BUT A NUMBER OF
ARGENTINIANS REMAINED. HMS ENDURANCE WAS ORDERED TO THE AREA
TO ASSIST AS NECESSARY.

| SINCE

SINCE THEN WE HAVE MADE REPEATED REQUESTS TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR THEM TO REGULARISE THE POSITION OF THE ARGENTINE PARTY, EITHER BY ARRANGING THEIR DEPARTURE OR BY SEEKING THE CORRECT AUTHORITY. WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE WE REGARDED THE SALVAGE CONTRACT ON WHICH THE MEN WERE EMPLOYED AS BEING QUITE STRAIGHT-FORWARD, WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THEY SHOULD REMAIN ILLEGALLY IN SOUTH GEORGIA. WE EMPHASISED THROUGHOUT TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT WE NONETHELESS WISHED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID THIS INCIDENT DEVELOPING INTO A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION, WE HAVE MADE AND OUR STILL MAKING ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. HOWEVER ALL OUR INITIATIVES WERE REJECTED AND THE ARGENTINE POSITION BECAME INCREASINGLY UNCOMPROMISING. THEY INSISTED THAT SOUTH GEORGIA WAS ARGENTINE TERRITORY AND ASSERTED THAT THE ARGENTINE MEN AT LEITH WOULD BE GIVEN ALL NECESSARY PROTECTION BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO AVOID WHAT WAS NOW CLEARLY DEVELOPING INTO A MOST DANGEROUS SITUATION, I SENT A MESSAGE TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSING THE DESPATCH TO BUENOS AIRES OF A PERSONAL EMISSARY TO WORK OUT SOME MEANS OF SETTLING THIS ISSUE PEACEFULLY. ON 1 APRIL THE FOREIGN MINISTER FLATLY REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, CLAIMING THAT THE DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL WAS NOW CLOSED AND THAT ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION WOULD BE SIMPLY TO ARRANGE THE MODALITIES OF THE TRANSFER TO ARGENTINA OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THE FALKLAND ISLAND DEPENDENCIES. IN THIS CRITICAL SITUATION, FOLLOWING A PERSONAL APPEAL BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE GOVERNMENTS, WE SOUGHT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 1 APRIL, WHICH LED TO A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING ON BOTH SIDES TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE. OUR REPRESENTATIVE DID SO AND ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THIS STATEMENT BUT THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT.

IT WAS NOW CLEAR, AND THIS WAS YESTERDAY, THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WERE BENT ON NOTHING LESS THAN THE FORCIBLE OCCUPATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND TO PREVENT THIS WE SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN TO THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT WERE REJECTED. AND IT IS NOW CONFIRMED THAT AN ARGENTINE NAVAL FORCE LANDED TROOPS TODAY AT PORT STANLEY AND HAVE SEIZED CONTROL OF THE TOWN. WE DO NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS OF THE SITUATION THERE.

THE ARGENTINE CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO BE INFORMED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE BEEN BROKEN OFF AND THAT ARGENTINIAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ARE ASKED TO LEAVE THE UNITED KINGDOM WITHIN FOUR WORKING DAYS. I HAVE INSTRUCTED SIR ANTHONY PARSONS, UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, TO ASK FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL. THIS HE HAS DONE AND IT SHOULD BE MEETING AT THIS MOMENT.

ENDS.

3. MR NOTTS SPEECH BEGINS:

''THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS EXPLAINED THE SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE A SALVAGE PARTY LANDED AT S. GEORGIA 14 DAYS AGO. INTENSIVE EFFORTS WERE MADE TO SETTLE THIS MATTER BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS - THROUGHOUT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO AVOID MILITARY MEASURES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISCONSTRUED OR MISREPRESENTED BY ARGENTINE, AS A THREAT OF THE USE OF FORCE. NEVERTHELESS WE DISPATCHED HMS ENDURANCE TO THE AREA OF S. GEORGIA WITH APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS. HMS ENDURANCE REMAINS IN THE AREA BUT I DO NOT WISH TO DISCLOSE HER POSITION.

EARLIER THIS WEEK WE BECAME AWARE OF SUBSTANTIAL ARGENTINE NAVAL EXERCISES, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO INCLUDE AN AMPHIBIOUS GROUP, AND LATER IN THE WEEK WE OBTAINED CLARIFICATION THAT THE EXERCISE LOCATION WAS MOVING TOWARDS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. ALTHOUGH THE ARGENTINE FLEET WAS STILL ON NAVAL EXERCISES WE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED AN OBVIOUS MILITARY RESPONSE SO AS TO AVOID PRECIPITATING THE VERY INCIDENT WHICH WE WERE SEEKING TO AVOID BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS - AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT A THREAT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WAS CONTEMPLATED.

LAST NIGHT CLEAR EVIDENCE BECAME AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVAL FORCE WERE PREPARING FOR THE ASSUALT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. THE ROYAL NAVY WAS STRAIGHT AWAY PUT ON IMMEDIATE NOTICE FOR OPERATIONS - AND A SUBSTANTIAL TASK FORCE IS BEING PREPARED.

NEVERTHELESS I CAN DISCLOSE THAT WE HAVE HAD A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ROYAL NAVAL SHIPS AT SEA FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME. I CANNOT HOWEVER REVEAL THEIR POSITION. ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE SOME TIME AGO FOR REPROVISIONING AND REFUELLING SUPPORT TO MOVE TO THE S. ATLANTIC.

I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS OF THE MILITARY PREPARATIONS WHICH WE HAVE MADE - OR ANY OTHER DETAILS OF FORCE MOVEMENTS''.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

STANDARD
S AM D
EMERGENCY UNIT
UND
ECD (E)
ERD
MAED
ESID
SED

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS