

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

PS

PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
HD/DEF D  
HD/NEWS D  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
HD/HKGD

RESIDENT CLERK

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD, Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

PS No.10 DOWNING ST.

PS/CHANCELLOR  
SIR K COUZENS  
MR LITTLER  
MR HAWTIN  
MR PERETZ  
MR ILETT  
MR McINTYRE

H.M.TSY

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAFU CABINET OFFICE  
SIR M. PALLISER, CABINET OFFICE

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

GPS 590

SECRET

FM BONN 210945Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 353 OF 21 APRIL

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. AT THE END OF A CONVERSATION ON NATO MATTERS WITH GOODALL YESTERDAY (MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 351) DROEGE (UNDER-SECRETARY FOR NATO AND WESTERN EUROPEAN MATTERS IN THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT) REFERRED TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH LIMMER WAS IN CHARGE OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON THE SUBJECT HE (DROEGE) ALSO HAD A DIRECT INTEREST IN IT AND HIS SUBORDINATE, SCHENK (RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE UK) WAS A MEMBER. BEARING IN MIND

FOR RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE UK) WAS A MEMBER. BEARING IN MIND THE INDICATIONS WE HAVE GLEANED OF SYMPATHY FOR THE ARGENTINE POSITION ON THE PART OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP, GOODALL TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY (AFTER PAYING WARM TRIBUTE TO THE FRG'S SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH POSITION) OF SAYING THAT WE ASSUMED THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD BE LOBBYING HARD TO ERODE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE COMMUNITY'S BACKING FOR THE UK: IT WAS CLEARLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS SUPPORT MIGHT BE MORE PRESENTATIONAL THAN REAL OR THAT THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WERE NOT SERIOUSLY INTENDED TO BITE. ANY STRAWS IN THE WIND OF THIS KIND WHICH THE ARGENTINES COULD PICK UP (OR MIGHT FANCY THEY HAD PICKED UP) WOULD ONLY STRNGTHEN THEIR RELUCTANCE TO BITE THE BULLET AND ACCEPT A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT. THE GERMANS NO DOUBT HAD THIS CONSIDERATION MUCH IN MIND.

2. DROEGE SAID THAT THIS POINT WAS WELL TAKEN. GERMAN SUPPORT FOR THE UK HAD INDEED BEEN INSTINCTIVE AND COMPLETE. IT WAS NOT GOING TO BE ERODED. NEVERTHELESS, GENSCHER IN PARTICULAR HAD STUCK HIS NECK OUT A VERY LONG WAY OVER THE FALKLANDS (EG IN HIS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET UNION) AND THE GERMAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STAKE WAS VERY HIGH. WE SHOULD KNOW THAT THERE WAS SOME FEELING OF DISAPPOINTMENT ON GENSCHER'S PART THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE, IN RETURN, TO TAKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MORE INTO OUR CONFIDENCE ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS AS TO THE HANDLING OF THE CRISIS. THE GERMANS WERE NOT ASKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MILITARY PLANNING. BUT THEY FELT IN THE DARK ABOUT THE HAIG NEGOTIATIONS, OUR ATTITUDE TO THEM AND WHAT SORT OF SETTLEMENT MIGHT EMERGE. GOODALL POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IN ORDER TO MEET THESE CONCERNS THAT YOU HAD ARRANGED TO BRIEF GENSCHER AND YOUR OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEAGUES YESTERDAY. BUT IN A RAPIDLY MOVING SITUATION, IN WHICH BRITISH MINISTERS WERE CONTINUALLY MEETING TO CONSIDER EVOLVING PROPOSALS AS THEY EMERGED FROM HAIG'S MEDIATION EFFORTS, IT WAS CLEARLY VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP EVEN OUR CLOSEST ALLIES AU COURANT WITH BRITISH THINKING. DROEGE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GERMANS WOULD WELCOME SOME CONTINUING BILATERAL CHANNEL OF INFORMATION ABOUT OUR

WELCOME SOME CONTINUING BILATERAL CHANNEL OF INFORMATION ABOUT OUR VIEWS AND INTENTIONS, EITHER THROUGH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN LONDON OR HERE.

3. IN UNDERTAKING TO REPORT THIS CONCERN, GOODALL REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A STEADFASTLY FIRM FRONT AGAINST ARGENTINA.

4. COMMENT. MY DA REPORTS SIMILAR INDICATIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT ON THE PART OF HIS CONTACTS IN THE GERMAN MOD ABOUT THE LITTLE INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE THEM ON SERVICE CHANNELS ABOUT THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. UNLESS WE CAN FIND SOME WAY OF MAKING THE GERMANS FEEL THAT WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO KEEP THEM FULLY IN THE PICTURE THAN HITHERTO, THERE IS A RISK THAT THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT MAY START TO COLOUR THE VIEW OF SOME OFFICIALS OF THE CORRECTNESS OF THE BRITISH POSITION. I AM SURE THAT SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER WILL REMAIN FIRM IN THEIR SUPPORT, THE FEELING IS THAT IT IS TIME FOR THE UK TO SHOW WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IS BECOMING DISCERNIBLE IN GERMAN MEDIA.

5. I REALISE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE THE GERMANS INTO OUR CONFIDENCE ON THE DETAIL OF THESE VERY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS. I WONDER HOWEVER WHETHER THE PURPOSE MIGHT NOT BE ACHIEVED BY ARRANGING A MORE OR LESS REGULAR BRIEFING OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON EVEN THOUGH WE COULD NOT TELL HIM MUCH MORE THAN WE CAN TELL THE PRESS: IT WOULD SHOW THAT WE WERE TRYING.

TAYLOR

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