

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL x34

[TYPISTS]

PS  
 PS/MR HURD  
 PS/MR ONSLOW  
 PS/PUS  
 MR BULLARD  
 SIR I SINCLAIR  
 MR GIFFARD  
 MR WRIGHT  
 MR ADAMS  
 LORD N G LENNOX  
 LORD BRIDGES  
 MR URE  
 MR GILLMORE  
 HD/PUSD  
 HD/S AM D  
 HD/DEF DEPT  
 HD/NEWS DEPT  
 HD/ERD  
 HD/ECD(E)  
 HD/UND  
 HD/PLANNING STAFF  
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60  
~~EMERGENCY ROOM~~  
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)  
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
 MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD  
 PS/CHANCELLOR )  
 SIR K COUZENS ) TREASURY  
 MR LITTLER )  
 SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
 SIR M PALLISER ) CABINET  
 MR WADE-GERY ) OFFICE  
 MR FULLER SAPU/DIO )  
 DIO )

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TRIPOLI 101050Z MAY 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 136 OF 10 MAY

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON

YOUR TELNO 110: LIBYA AND ARGENTINA

1. I CALLED ON AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU FOR FOREIGN LIAISON (PBFL) THIS MORNING (10 MAY) OSTENSIBLY TO DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO A RECENT DEPARTURE IN LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY REPORTING FROM ITS EARLIER EVEN-HANDED POSITION. IN THIS CONTEXT I WAS ALSO ABLE TO MAKE REFERENCE TO REPORTS WE HAD HEARD IN WASHINGTON AND CARRIED ON AFP OF ARGENTINE ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN MISSILES FROM LIBYA.

2. ABU ARQOUB STRESSED THAT THE OFFICIAL LIBYAN POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE ITS ORIGINAL STATEMENT OF 10 APRIL (OUR TELNO

CHANGED SINCE ITS ORIGINAL STATEMENT OF 10 APRIL (OUR TELNO 105). HE FLATLY DENIED THE WASHINGTON RUMOUR AND UNDER FURTHER QUESTIONING CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND. UBAYDI'S ASSURANCE TO US ON 8 APRIL (OUR TELNO 102) THAT NO MILITARY OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO ARGENTINA REMAINED TRUE.

3. ABU ARQOUB ADDED THAT RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA HAD NOT BEEN GOOD SINCE PERON. ARGENTINA HAD NOT RATIFIED CERTAIN AGREEMENTS, AND HAD A BAD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. LIBYA NORMALLY CONDUCTED RELATIONS ON A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE BASIS AND COULD NOT BE CLOSE TO A REGIME WHICH HAD IMPOSED ITSELF ON THE PEOPLE AND MAINTAINED THIS POSITION BY FORCE (SIC).

4. THE FRENCH (FROM WHOM WE LEARNT THAT THE RUMOUR HAD APPEARED ON AFP) HAVE CONFIRMED THAT LIBYA HAS NO REPEAT NO EXOCET MISSILES.

BURTON

NNNN