

GRPS 220

S E C R E T

SECRET

FM BRUSSELS 131700Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 174 OF 13 MAY 82

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS AND MODUK C IN C FLEET

MIPT:FALKLAND ISLANDS:ARMS SALES

1. WE HAD SPOKEN EARLIER TO BURNY, THE MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMS SALES ON THE LINES OF YOUR TELNOS 241 AND 244 TO PARIS.
2. ON SALES TO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT PASS EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA, BURNY SAID THAT BELGIAN EXPORTS TO VENEZUELA AND PERU WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT. THE RESPONSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE LINE TAKEN BY BELGIUM'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO WHOM WE MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHES. BURNY RECALLED THAT IN 1977 THE SUSPENSION OF ARMS SALES TO GUATEMALA, UNDERTAKEN AT OUR REQUEST, HAD WORKED SINCE THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS HAD BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON COMMON RESTRAINT.
3. BURNY ATTEMPTED TO ARGUE THAT ANY SALE TO A SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY WOULD IN ANY CASE BE ACCOMPANIED BY END USER CERTIFICATES. WE REPLIED THAT THESE DID NOT AMOUNT TO A SATISFACTORY SAFEGUARD. THE NEED WAS URGENT: IF THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES LEARNT OF ANY PROSPECTIVE SALES TO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHERE ARGENTINA COULD BE THE FINAL RECIPIENT, WE HOPED THEY WOULD FIND WAYS OF DELAYING THE TRANSACTION.
4. BURNY HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARGENTINES MIGHT BUY AIR TO SURFACE MISSILES FROM PRIVATE DEALERS. WE ASKED HIM IF THEY WERE MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF ARMS DEALERS IN BELGIUM AND WHETHER THEY KNEW IF THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY HERE HAD STEPPED UP ITS ACTIVITIES OVER ARMS PURCHASES. BURNY SAID THEY HAD NOT SO FAR COVERED THESE POINTS AND UNDERTOOK TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. WE ARE ALSO TAKING ACTION WITH THIS MINISTRY VIA OTHER CHANNELS.

JACKSON

FALKLAND ISLAND GENERAL

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

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