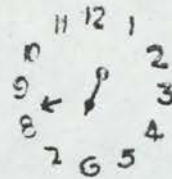


25 MAY 1982

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM MONTEVIDEO 251425Z MAY 82
 TO PRIORITY FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 374 OF 25 MAY 1982.



MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 371. THE RIVER PLATE.

QUESTION WERE PUT TO THE PRESIDENT AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE
 YESTERDAY EVENING AS FOLLOWS:

SOVEREIGNTY IN THE RIVER PLATE.
 QUESTION.

- IT HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES THAT GREAT
 BRITAIN WOULD NOT RECOGNISE ARGENTINA'S AND URUGUAY'S SOVEREIGNTY
 OVER THE 200 MILES OF THE RIVER PLATE, BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE
 RECOGNISED IN A RADIUS NOT GREATER THAN 12 MILES. WHAT IS URUGUAY'S
 POSITION IN THE NOTE PRESENTED TO BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES IN
 MONTEVIDEO?

PRESIDENT ALVAREZ.

- IT IS A FORMAL ANSWER IN WHICH URUGUAY INFORMS THE GOVERNMENT OF
 THE UNITED KINGDOM THAT THE WATERS OF THE RIVER PLATE ARE GOVERNED
 BY A STATUTE WHICH IS DEFINED AND OF LONG STANDING. THEREFORE
 URUGUAY DOES NOT ACCEPT THAT THE RIVER PLATE BE CONSIDERED AN ESTUARY
 IN THE MANNER THAT GREAT BRITAIN IS TRYING TO DO.

IT IS NO MORE THAN A NOTE WHICH RATIFIES URUGUAY'S POSITION,
 ANSWERING THE UNITED KINGDOM'S POSITION WHICH IS ALREADY KNOWN.

THERE IS NO BLOCKADE.

QUESTION.

-GOING BACK ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, TELEGRAMS FROM
 OVERSEAS INDICATE THAT GREAT BRITAIN HAS BLOCKED THE RIVER PLATE.
 IS THAT SO, MR PRESIDENT?

ANSWER.

-NO, NOT AT ALL. THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS VERY CLOSE
 RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PARTIES IN CONFLICT.
 SPECIFICALLY THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED THE MOST ABSOLUTE
 GUARANTEES OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN.
 IT WILL NOT AFFECT URUGUAY'S SOVREIGNTY IN THE RIVER PLATE.

HUTCHINSON