

PS  
 PS/AS FURD  
 PS/AS GIBSON  
 PS/FUS  
 MR BULLARD  
 SIR I SINCLAIR  
 MR GIFFARD  
 MR WRIGHT  
 MR ADAMS  
 LORD R G LEEFAX  
 LORD BRIDGES  
 MR UPS  
 MR GILMORE  
 HD/PSD (2)  
 HD/S AM D  
 HD/DEF DEPT  
 HD/NEWS DEPT  
 HD/ED  
 HD/ECD(E)  
 HD/USD  
 HD/PLANNING STAFF  
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS T60  
 EMERGENCY ROOM  
 RESIDENT CLERK

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)  
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
 MR J STEKART AUSD STAFF MOD  
 PS/CHANCELLOR )  
 MR LEFT ) TREASURY  
 MR LITTLER )  
 SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
 SIR N PALLISER ) CABINET  
 MR MADE-GERY ) OFFICE  
 MR FULLER SAPU/DIO )  
 DIO )  
 RR 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

HD(WG)

Miss Dickson, D/ENCL

[Passed to E.R.]

[Typists a.a.]

GRS 550  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 FM STOCKHOLM 281400Z MAY 82  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 98 OF 28 MAY 1982  
 BINFO PRIORITY PARIS AND UKHIS GENEVA  
 INFO ROUTINE BRASILIA AND MODUK  
 YOUR TEL NO 295 TO PARIS: ASTIZ

*ms*

IMMEDIATE

1. THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO HAD ISSUED A SHORT STATEMENT LAST NIGHT REGRETTING OUR NEGATIVE RESPONSE, SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING TO RECEIVE A MORE FORMAL EXPRESSION OF REGRET. HIFT CONTAINS HIS SPEAKING NOTES WHICH HE HANDED ME AFTERWARDS.

2. ULLSTEN SAID TWO POINTS WORRIED HIM IN PARTICULAR: HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT IT WAS AGAINST THE GENEVA CONVENTION TO PUT QUESTIONS TO ASTIZ, AND HE THOUGHT HE HAD GONE BEYOND THE STRICT REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVENTION IN SEEKING ARGENTINE CONSENT. HE WAS NOT A LEGAL EXPERT AND COULD NOT ASK US TO CONTRAVENE THE CONVENTION, BUT HIS OWN LEGAL ADVISERS HAD PRODUCED A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION. THE LATTER WAS A SERIOUS ONE FOR SWEDEN. HE KNEW THE FRENCH WERE



MATTER WAS A SERIOUS ONE FOR SWEDEN. HE KNEW THE FRENCH WERE DISSATISFIED TOO.

3. I SAID WE WERE SORRY WE COULD DO NO MORE TO HELP. I COULD CONFIRM THAT THE FRENCH WERE ALSO UNHAPPY. WE HAD ALSO TOLD THEM THAT WE COULD NOT HAND OVER ASTIZ UNDER THE EXTRADITION AGREEMENTS, AND THE SAME APPLIED TO SWEDEN. HAVING CLEARED FIRST WITH EMERGENCY UNIT, I THEN ASKED ULLSTEN HOW HE THOUGHT WE COULD PROCEED. HAD HE NO SUGGESTIONS? IT WAS NOT JUST THE ARGENTINE OBJECTION WHICH REACHED WITH US BUT ALSO THE VIEW OF ICRC WHICH WAS VERY IMPORTANT.

4. ULLSTEN ASKED IF ANOTHER OCCASION COULD BE FOUND IN DUE COURSE TO ASK ASTIZ IF HE WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS. HE HAD THE RIGHT TO KEEP SILENT, OF COURSE, BUT AFTER A PERIOD IN CAPTIVITY HIS CONSCIENCE MIGHT INDUCE HIM TO COOPERATE. AFTER ALL, HE WOULD HARDLY BE ABLE TO RECEIVED BACK IN BUENOS AIRES AS A HERO. PRESUMABLY HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO REVEAL TO THE ARGENTINES THAT WE HAD PUT THE QUERY AGAIN. I REPLIED THAT ASTIZ WOULD BE ENTITLED TO TELL THE ICRC, AND THE ARGENTINES COULD THEN ACCUSE US OF ATTEMPTED COERCION. I SAW NO WAY AROUND THIS, BUT IF ULLSTEN'S LEGAL ADVISERS REALLY BELIEVED IN A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT AT LEAST LOOK AT IT, THOUGH I DOUBTED IF WE WOULD AGREE.

5. AT THAT POINT ULLSTEN DISMISSED HIS NOTE-TAKER AND SAID TO ME ALONE THAT HE AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WERE IN A SERIOUS POLITICAL SITUATION OVER ASTIZ. THE HAGELIN AFFAIR (THE KISSING SWEDISH GIRL) HAD ALL THE MAKINGS OF A NINI RAOUL WALLENBERG CASE AND HE WAS ANXIOUS THAT THE DOOR SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED AGAINST A SWEDISH APPROACH. WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR WAS SOME WAY OF SHOWING SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION THAT QUESTIONS HAD BEEN PUT TO ASTIZ EVEN IF LATTER REFUSED TO ANSWER. HE WOULD GET HIS STAFF TO PREPARE AN INTERPRETATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION IN STRICT SECRECY. I REPEATED THAT I COULD SEE NO WAY FORWARD, AND MY SUGGESTION OF A SWEDISH LEGAL INTERPRETATION MUST NOT BE TAKEN IN ANY WAY AS READINESS OR ABILITY TO RE-OPEN THE CASE. IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR ULLSTEN TO INFER OR TO SUGGEST IN PUBLIC THAT WE WERE OPEN TO RECONSIDERATION, AND I HOPED HE WOULD SAY NO MORE THAN THAT I HAD RECEIVED HIS FORMAL PROTEST. HE AGREED.

6. ULLSTEN CLOSED BY SAYING THAT ON THE FACE OF IT ASTIZ WAS A VICIOUSLY PICKED MAN. WE HAD THIS BIG FISH IN OUR GRASP, AND THOUGH HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD OUR PROBLEMS HE HOPED YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND HIS. WHEN WOULD ASTIZ BE REPATRIATED? I REPEATED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THIS.

7. ULLSTEN AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT GENERALLY HAVE BEEN WELL WITH



7. ULLSTEN AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT GENERALLY HAVE BEEN WELL WITH US SO FAR ON THE FALKLANDS AND I IMAGINE WE MAY EVEN NEED THEIR GOODWILL IN THE POST-HOSTILITIES STAGE. HE REALISES THAT A LEGAL INTERPRETATION IS PROBABLY AN EMPTY GESTURE, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD AT LEAST LOOK AT IT.

MURRAY

NNN

SENT AT 231734Z TRO