

ADVANCE COPIES

37

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/MR WHITNEY
 PS/MR RIFKIND
 PS/PUS
 SIR J BULLARD
 MR FREELAND
 SIR W HARDING
 MR GOODALL
 MR O'NEILL
 SIR C TICKELL
 MR D C THOMAS
 MR WESTON
 MR *Birzington*
 HD/PUSD
 HD/SAMD
 HD/FID
 HD/NEWS DEPT
 HD/EED
 HD/ECD (E)
 HD/UND

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

(2)

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
 MR RD NICHOLLS, AUSD STAFF, MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR }
 MISS M E CUND } TREASURY
 MR LITTLER }

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
 MR A D S GOODALL } CABINET
 DIO } OFFICE

MR POWER, SAD, ODA

MR A FORTNAM IAT/D. TRANSPORT

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BERNE 20/0635Z JUL 84
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKBY 200945Z
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 279 OF 20 JULY 1984

MIPT

RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

1. DURING LAST NIGHT'S SESSION I TOOK UP WITH BRUNNER, AS INSTRUCTED BY TELEPHONE, YOUR REQUEST THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONFIRM IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT THE NATURE OF THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT REACHED BEFORE THE TALKS CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF THE SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION AND SHOULD STATE THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN OBSERVED ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE. I FIRST OF ALL SPOKE TO HIM ACROSS THE TABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OTHER DELEGATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAD A PRIVATE TALK WITH HIM IN THE CORRIDOR IN WHICH I PRESSED HIM HARD TO HONOUR THE COMMITMENT WHICH HE HAD GIVEN DURING OUR PREPARATORY EXCHANGES.

2. BRUNNER DID NOT DENY THE ASSURANCES WHICH HE HAD GIVEN ME. NOR DID HE DENY THAT THE LINKAGE INSISTED ON BY THE ARGENTINES BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS ON NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS AND THE SETTING UP OF A MECHANISM TO DISCUSS SOVEREIGNTY WAS CONTRARY TO OUR

BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS ON NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS AND THE SETTING UP OF A MECHANISM TO DISCUSS SOVEREIGNTY WAS CONTRARY TO OUR PRIOR AGREEMENT.

3. HE WAS, HOWEVER, UNWILLING TO AGREE TO YOUR REQUEST ON THE GROUNDS THAT ONLY THE FEDERAL COUNCIL COULD AUTHORISE SUCH A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD HE SAID NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THE TALKS THAT SUCH A STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF OUR DELEGATION HAD RAISED THE POINT DURING THE TALKS ON THE PREVIOUS EVENING OR EVEN THAT MORNING. HE MIGHT THEN HAVE GIVEN A RULING BUT COULD NOT NOW PUBLICLY ACCUSE THE ARGENTINES AFTER THE EVENT.

4. AFTER DISCUSSION IN WHICH THOMAS JOINED, BRUNNER OFFERED TO CONVEY TO THE ARGENTINES OUR VIEW THAT THEY HAD BROKEN THE AGREEMENT. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION HE ALSO AGREED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINES THAT HE SHARED OUR VIEW.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, BRUNNER MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN THE SWISS VIEW WHICH WAS SHARED BY THE BRAZILIANS THE STYLE AND SUBSTANCE OF OUR DELEGATIONS OPENING STATEMENT ON 18 JULY AND OUR REPLY TO THE ARGENTINE STATEMENT ON SOVEREIGNTY HAD COME AS UNPLEASANT SURPRISES TO THE ARGENTINES AND HAD STIFFENED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS DISCUSSION OF NORMALISATION MEASURES. HE WAS NOT PERSUADED THAT ALL THE BLAME FOR THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO ARGENTINE SIDE.

POWELL-JONES

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 200919Z KH//HGH