

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
~~SIR J HILLARD~~  
SIR I SINCLAIR  
~~MR GIFFARD~~  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
~~LORD N G LENOX~~  
LORD BRIDGES  
MR URE  
~~MR COLLINGS~~

~~PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST~~ (2)  
PS/S OF S. FOR DEFENCE  
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD  
PS/CHANCELLOR )  
MR ILETT ) TREASURY  
MR LITTLER )  
MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY  
SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
SIR M PALLISER )  
MR A D S GOODALL ) CABINET OFFICE  
DIO )

HD/PUSD (2)  
HD/S AM D  
HD/FALKLANDS UNIT (2)  
HD/DEFENCE DEPT  
HD/NEWS DEPT  
HD/ERD  
HD/ECD(E)  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
RESIDENT CLERK

ROOM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

→ MR. COLIN ROTH, LACPD, ODA  
MR. BORDEN, LACPD, ODA

GRS 390  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM PARIS 271915Z JUL 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 774 OF 27 JULY 1982

YOUR TELNO 445: ALLEGATIONS OF FRENCH HELP FOR ARGENTINA OVER EXOCETS.

1. I SAW GUTMANN, SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE QUAI, THIS EVENING (27 JULY) AND ASKED WHAT CLARIFICATIONS HE COULD OFFER.
2. GUTMANN SAID THE QUAI HAD ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING FACTS BASED ON REPORTS FROM THE FRENCH MISSION IN BUENOS AIRES:
  - (A) THE FRENCH TECHNICIANS HAD STANDING INSTRUCTIONS, DATING FROM BEFORE THE FALKLANDS CRISIS, NOT TO HELP THE ARGENTINES IN THE EVENT OF AN ARMED CONFLICT. THESE INSTRUCTIONS APPLIED GENERALLY TO FRENCH TECHNICIANS IN THE EVENT OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY WERE SERVING BECOMING INVOLVED IN CONFLICT.
  - (B) NO HELP HAD BEEN GIVEN, NOR WAS ANY NECESSARY. THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN OPERATIONAL FROM DECEMBER 1981. HOWEVER THERE HAD BEEN NO TEST FIRINGS BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. THIS WAS WHY THE FIRST OPERATIONAL FIRINGS HAD BEEN FROM

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THIS WAS WHY THE FIRST OPERATIONAL FIRINGS HAD BEEN FROM  
LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE. THE ARGENTINE PERSONNEL HAD  
BEEN TRAINED IN FRANCE AND HAD ALL THE NECESSARY KNOW-HOW.  
(C) THE FRENCH TECHNICIANS HAD REMAINED IN ARGENTINA FOR  
COMMERCIAL REASONS. DURING THE CONFLICT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD TO  
STAY AT HOME. READING FROM A TELEGRAM GUTMANN QUOTED THE  
FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE AS SAYING THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW NO  
COUNTER-INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE FRENCH COMPANIES  
INVOLVED. IN ANY CASE NO EXOCET AM39 SPECIALIST WAS PRESENT  
IN ARGENTINA.

3. I ASKED ABOUT COLIN (NOT COLEN, AS PRINTED IN THE SUNDAY TIMES).  
GUTMANN SAID HE WAS ON HOLIDAY AND HAD NOT YET BEEN QUESTIONED.  
GUTMANN THOUGHT THAT WORDS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PUT INTO COLIN'S  
MOUTH ON THE BASIS OF LEADING QUESTIONS FROM THE SUNDAY  
TIMES, WHICH SEEMED TO BE PURSUING A VENDETTA AGAINST FRANCE.  
THE SUNDAY TIMES HAD MADE UNTRUE ALLEGATIONS ON THE SAME THEME  
ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION DURING THE CONFLICT.

4. GUTMANN SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE NOW PURSUING THEIR ENQUIRIES  
WITH THE FIRMS CONCERNED, AND EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A  
DETAILED STATEMENT IN A DAY OR TWO, REFUTING THE SUNDAY TIMES  
ALLEGATIONS, AND WITH LUCK FORESTALLING FURTHER STORIES THE  
PAPER MIGHT BE ABOUT TO PUBLISH.

5. GUTMANN'S TONE WAS CONCILIATORY, HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH  
HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY VEXED BY THE EPISODE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED  
THAT WE WERE RIGHT TO LOOK TO THEM FOR AN EXPLANATION AND  
PROMISED A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WHEN ENQUIRIES ARE COMPLETE.

FRETWELL

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