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GRS 235
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FROM PORT STANLEY 051230Z FEB 1982
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 16 OF 05 FEBRUARY
AND PRIORITY INFO BUENOS AIRES
UKM, NY

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. / 8		
- 8 FEB 1982		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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15) YOUR TELNO 16: FALKLANDS TALKS.

1. FORTUITOUSLY, I HAD ALL COUNCILLORS EXCEPT LUXTON IN YESTERDAY FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. AS THEY WERE DISPERSING EARLY THIS MORNING AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET THEM TOGETHER AGAIN BEFORE 17 FEBRUARY, I HELD A JOINT COUNCILS' MEETING LAST NIGHT TO BRIEF BLAKE AND CHEEK WITHOUT WAITING FOR CONFIRMATION FROM HMA BUENOS AIRES THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO ROS.
2. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN PARA 3. OF YOUR TUR AND, AS EXPECTED, BLAKE AND CHEEK ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE ARGENTINE PAPER. I SAID IT WAS SUBSTANTIAL AND I HAD NOT RECEIVED A COPY BUT THAT, EXCEPT FOR THE PROPOSAL THAT WE AGREE IN NEW YORK TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS TO LOOK INTO PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE DISPUTE, IT WAS ON SIMILAR LINES TO THE ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE OF 27 JULY, COPIES OF WHICH I COULD GIVE THEM. THEY ACCEPTED THIS BUT BLAKE SAID THAT, IF THE PAPER WAS SUBSTANTIAL AS I HAD DESCRIBED, HE AND CHEEK WOULD LIKE A COPY ON THEIR WAY THROUGH BUENOS AIRES SO THAT THEY HAD MORE TIME TO STUDY IT BEFORE THE TALKS BEGAN ON 23 FEBRUARY. I UNDERTOOK TO PASS THIS REQUEST TO YOU BUT I MADE CLEAR THAT MR LUCE WOULD BE GOING OVER THE ARGENTINE PAPER CAREFULLY WITH THEM IN NEW YORK ON 22 FEBRUARY.
3. I RECOMMEND GIVING THEM COPIES OF THE ARGENTINE PAPER AND OUR REPLY IN BUENOS AIRES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL NOT CHANGE THEIR MINDS ABOUT ATTENDING THE TALKS. BLAKE'S LINE IS THAT HE WILL JOIN IN DISCUSSIONS ON ANY TOPIC WHATSOEVER EXCEPT SOVEREIGNTY. WHEN THIS IS BROUGHT UP (AS THEY KNOW IT WILL BE) BLAKE AND CHEEK WILL NOT ENTER INTO ANY MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION BUT WILL SIMPLY LISTEN AND REPORT BACK. THEY REALISE THAT TALKS WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE SOVEREIGNTY IF THEY ARE TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
4. I STRESSED THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE BRIEFING AND COUNCILLORS UNDERTOOK TO OBSERVE THIS.

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