

MR. COLES

CHILE

The new Chilean Foreign Minister (formerly Ambassador to London) called on Alan Walters and myself to say goodbye this morning. I understand that he will be calling on the Prime Minister on 23 March. He made four points to me in a brief conversation.

First, he was determined to bring maximum pressure on the Vatican and on Argentina to persuade Argentina to accept the Pope's award on the Beagle Channel. He had already been in touch both with the Argentine Foreign Minister and with the Vatican.

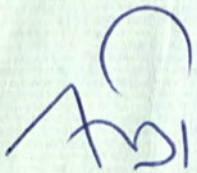
Secondly, he was extremely worried about what appeared to be the Americans' intention to "certify" Argentina for the receipt of military assistance, and not so to certify Chile. His understanding was that the State Department had already made such a decision and that it was now before President Reagan. He would be seeing George Shultz on 28 March and would try to persuade the Americans to change their minds. He was not asking for certification of Chile, only that there should be no certification of Argentina. He hinted that, if US arms supplies to Argentina were resumed, there would be an imbalance and Chile would seek more support from us.

Thirdly, he had seen Perez de Cuellar in New York a few days ago. The latter had told him of his conversation with President Bignone in Delhi at the Non-Aligned meeting. Perez de Cuellar had suggested to Bignone that Argentina should declare a formal cessation of hostilities with Britain. This was clearly the first condition which we would demand for normalisation. Bignone had replied that, since there had been no formal declaration of war, he could not see how a formal cessation of hostilities could be declared! Perez de Cuellar confirmed that he would be addressing letters to ourselves and to Argentina asking whether there was anything he could do by way of good offices over the Falklands. He was under no illusions as to what the reply would be from each side.

Fourthly, the Chilean Government was worried about the question of a "special rapporteur" for human rights in Chile. (This is an old UN chestnut which has come up year-by-year since the mid-1970s). The



previous special rapporteur has just died and the Foreign Minister seemed to be thinking about involving Lord Colville in some way or other. This is a very complex subject and I doubt whether he will raise it with the Prime Minister.



A.D. PARSONS  
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