

BAT 441

ANT/GEN/1 # 14

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECRETARIAT

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(Formerly)

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URUGUAYAN BASE IN ANTARTICA.

CONNECT .D FILES.

NUMBER

BAT 441

0051
2319

Argentine Pretensions to Falkland Islands - Top Secret
Visit of Uruguayan Naval officer.

August 14, 1963

X I sent you a copy of my letter 1523/63 of May 8 to our Naval Attaché in Buenos Aires about the possibility of two Uruguayan Navy officers going down to the Falkland Islands on S.S. "Darwin" in mid-December with a view to joining H.M.S. "Protector" at Christmastime, visiting the Antarctic, and returning in "Protector" to Montevideo at the end of January.

2. We gather that, from the Admiralty viewpoint, this is administratively feasible but that it is yet to be decided

(a) who should meet the cost of the outward and return trips

(b) whether there are any prohibitory "difficulties on the political side - Argentine and Chilean reactions for example".

3. As you know, we favour this project as providing the chance of offering a very small return for the recurrent and expensive hospitality which the Uruguayan Navy are called upon to offer to H.M. Ships (including "Protector" herself once or twice a year) and to visiting senior officers of the Royal Navy. In view of this we feel (subject to the Naval Attaché's views) that the operation would be a legitimate charge on the Admiralty. In any event the goodwill we should hope to gain from the exercise would be much impaired if we had to ask the Uruguayans to pay.

4. However we shall say nothing to the Uruguayans until we have your views on 2 (a) and (b).

5. I am sending copies of this letter to the Naval Attaché in Buenos Aires, to the Colonial Secretariat, Port Stanley, and to the Chancery in Santiago.

(K.H. Jones)

A.D. Parsons, Esq., M.C.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

*J.E. for information, please.
L.G.
11.9.63*

*RA 12.9.63
B4 12.63*

(23/63)

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British Embassy

MONTEVIDEO

October 4, 1963

We have discussed with the Naval Attaché your letter A 15218 of September 26 (not copied elsewhere) about the possibility of the two Uruguayan naval officers joining R.M.S. "Protector" in December (in Port Stanley, having gone there on the "Darwin") for a visit to the Antarctic and return to Montevideo.

2. The Naval Attaché has undertaken to explore the question of the messing charges; and provided that the basic charges are not excessive we do not think that there will be any difficulty in coming to some amicable Anglo-Uruguayan arrangement. The question of the fares to Port Stanley (\$27.10.0 each for two officers sharing a double-berth cabin) is more difficult; and we doubt if we could get the Uruguayans to pay without impairing the goodwill which is the object of the exercise. Are there no Information Vote funds (for visits to British territories) from which we could cover the \$55.?

3. Failing this, the Ambassador has suggested that there is a strong case for asking the Colonial Office and/or the Falkland Islands Company (who operate the "Darwin" - at a loss anyway) to meet this charge. You will be well aware of the Argentine campaign (in the Press and the United Nations) against the Falkland Islands Company and the British administration. This is inevitably reflected in Uruguay; and copies of the Argentine magazine "Panorama" are on sale here with the recent objectionable articles on the subject. Subject to the Governor's views, it would seem to be very much in our interests to have a few responsible Uruguayans visit Port Stanley and see for themselves what conditions are like. Very few tourists go down in the "Darwin". While I do not think that the Argentine campaign has any appreciable effect on the Uruguayan Government, it has to be born in mind that, should the position change, the Uruguayans could without difficulty greatly hinder the present sea and mail communications with the Islands via Montevideo.

4. If you agree, perhaps you could consider approaching the Colonial Office. If we were to arrange things in time for the coming season, any communications with Port Stanley on the subject would have to be by telegraph. Alternatively, and

/less

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less preferably, we could aim at putting the plan into effect in December 1964 (by when the new Captain of the "Protector" will already have visited Uruguay and met the Uruguayan Navy personally).

5. I am sending copies of this letter to the Naval Attaché in Buenos Aires and to the Colonial Secretariat in Port Stanley.

(K.H. Jones)

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Copy Telegram N.45

En Clair



Montevideo.

Addressed to Buenos Aires telegram No.45 of October 29 repeated for information saving to Foreign Office.

Following for Naval Attaché. Parson's letter A 15218/4 of October 24.

We have asked shipping agents provisionally to reserve one double cabin "Darwin" December 13 to 17. Will take no other action until we hear from you.

Brain.



FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(A 15218/4)

October 24, 1963

Dear Jones,

Thank you for your letter of October 4 about the possibility of the two Uruguayan Naval Officers joining H.M.S. Protector in December.

2. We followed up your suggestion that there might be information funds available from which we could pay the fares to Port Stanley and I am glad to say that this will be possible. The Admiralty tell me that they have arranged for the officers messing charges (that is to say 'board and lodging' but not drink and cigarettes etc.) to be met from their funds. The only remaining hurdle is that of security clearance.

3. It remains to be decided how the invitation to these officers is to be made. I presume that the Admiralty will authorise the Naval Attaché in Buenos Aires to convey it, perhaps via you. This should be done I imagine as soon as possible.

4. We will be writing again about the mechanics of paying the fares.

5. I am copying this letter to the Naval Attaché in Buenos Aires, to the Colonial Secretariat in Port Stanley, to Whitefield at the Colonial Office and to Draper and Abrahams in the Admiralty.

Yours ever,

(Signed) Tony Parsons

(A.D. Parsons)

K.H. Jones, Esq.,
Montevideo

(1523/63)



British Embassy

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MONTEVIDEO

November 1, 1963



Dear Anon,

I am so sorry to hear that the visit to the Falkland Islands is not "on". Perhaps after my leave next year?

2. We will look after Thompson and his wife on their arrival.

3. You will see from correspondence copied to your Secretariat that we hope that he will be accompanied from here by two Uruguayan Naval officers. I hope that you agree with my view that in addition to the general goodwill advantages of this exercise it would be helpful for them to see something of the Falkland Islands, since Argentine misrepresentations get a good deal of credence - if perhaps less credence - in Uruguay. The time however is getting short and I should be grateful if you would telegraph your concurrence in the proposal so that when final authority is given we can issue the invitations without delay.

4. We do not know here whether there would be any delay between the arrival of the officers in Port Stanley and their transfer on board "Protector" since we do not know her exact movements. If there is, I trust that you would agree to provide them with suitable accommodation?

5. We have been having the same Spring as you - mutatis mutandis - and there was a really nasty tornado up country two days ago.

6. I am sending a copy of this letter to my Naval Attaché in Buenos Aires.

7. Best wishes to you both.

Yours ever

H.N. Brain

(H.N. Brain)

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G.,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

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Return on file early. H.

Extracted to P/987.
Extracted to 2319

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From H.E. the Governor

To Prodrome, Montevideo

Despatched : 7th November 19 63 Time : 1630

Received : 19 Time :

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Your letter November 1st visit Uruguayan Naval Officers I agree. Darwin ETA Stanley December 17 Protector December 24. They will have a week in Stanley. Accommodation presents problems but we shall manage and I hope they will be able to see something of the camp as well.

Extracted
to
2319.

GOVERNOR.

EPA/ER

Cypher BID.

9

AKC

We had better have a file "visit of
Kungyamau Naval Officers." I hope
they may be able to go round the
Camp in "Darwin"; but, if not, Mr.
Clapp is prepared to put them up.

9 copied to 2319. H 18/11/63.

~~AKC~~ 12.11.63

10

Extract from letter to Sir Norman Brain dated November 22, 1963,
from H.E. the Governor.

Many thanks for your letter of November 1. I hear that passages have been booked for the two Uruguayan Naval officers and they will be arriving here by the "Darwin" on December 17. I think she will probably do a short Camp voyage, and this will enable them to see a bit of the Islands. Ted Clapp, the Officer in charge of British Antarctic Survey, has agreed to put them up if they are likely to be in Stanley before "Protector" gets here. We shall have the Thompsons staying with us at that time.

pa