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TELNO 1983 OF 1 JUNE 1982,
INFO PARIS.

FALKLANDS: US TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

1. IN A US TELEVISION INTERVIEW AT THE WEEKEND (A CURTAIN RAISER TO THE VERSAILLES SUMMIT) PRESIDENT MITTERRAND WAS ASKED WHETHER CONTINUED FIGHTING BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA WOULD INTRUDE ON THE SUMMIT. HE REPLIED :

''IT SO HAPPNES THAT LIKE MANY OTHERS WE FOUND OURSELVES IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE -- EMBARRASSING SITUATION -- BECAUSE OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. ON THE ONE HAND, GREAT BRITAIN, AN ALLY, A FRIEND, THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THAT COUNTRY IS INTERWOVEN WITH OUR OWN, MANY, MANY YEARS AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY, WITH TWO WORLD WARS, WE ARE REALLY WELDED TOGETHER WITH GREAT BRITAIN. AND SO IF THERE ISN'T A

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WELDED TOGETHER WITH GREAT BRITAIN. AND SO IF THERE ISN'T A REFLEX OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE THEN BETWEEN WHOM COULD SUCH A REFLEX EXIST?

WE AREN'T, IN SAYING THAT, SETTLING THE PROBLEM IN LAW. BY USING FORCE, BY CHOOSING FORCE, ARGENTINA HAS IN FACT BROKEN THE RULE OF LAW AND DISPLACED SOMETHING WRONG. AND SO, THE BRITISH REACTION WAS A FAIRLY OBVIOUS ONE. THE BRITISH WOULDN'T HAVE SENT A NAVAL TASK FORCE ALL THAT DISTANCE JUST TO MAKE IT GO ON, SAIL TOWARDS CHINA OR POLYNESIA.

WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA, AND WE ARE REALLY VERY SAD TO BE IN SUCH A SITUATION IN WHICH THOSE COUNTRIES COULD PERHAPS DOUBT OUR FRIENDSHIP, THE COMMON BASIS, THE COMMON CIVILIZATION THAT WE HAVE. SO WE ARE IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE IS ONLY A BAD SIDE TO IT AND THAT OF COURSE IS VERY FREQUENT IN POLITICAL LIFE. SO I DECIDED THAT OUR DUTY WAS FIRST OF ALL TO SHOW FULL SOLIDARITY WITH THE BRITISH, NUMBER ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF AN OPPRESSION. THEY HAVE BEEN INJURED, THEIR INTERESTS, AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL PRIDE AS WELL.

THE SECOND POINT IS THAT WE MUST DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN DO BECAUSE, ONCE GREAT BRITAIN HAS MANAGED TO AGAIN GET CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OR PART OF THE PROPERTY, THEN WE MUST DO ALL THAT WE CAN POSSIBLY DO IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE BY THE VARIOUS MEANS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS WILL EVOLVE, IN PARTICULAR, THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S MISSION. AND AS WE SAID AT THE VERY BEGINNING, THROUGH RESOLUTION 502 IN PARTICULAR WE MUST MOVE TOWARDS PEACE THROUGH LAW. SO THAT IS THE SITUATION''.

HENDERSON

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