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ALANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30x3) 35

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

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PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLE)
MR HARTIN)
MR PERETZ) TREASURY
MR ILETT)
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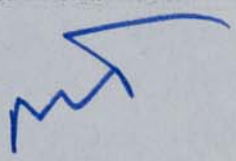
ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
ED/DEF D
ED/NEWS D
ED/ORD
ED/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
RESIDENT CLERK

Head WES

MISS DICKSON (HIP DIV) D/EN
DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO " "
SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

GRPS 520
CONFIDENTIAL
FM BRUSSELS 041545Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 158 OF 04 APRIL



INFO PRIORITY TO BONN ROME PARIS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE
LUXEMBOURG UKREP BRUSSELS ATHENS UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YOR
INFO ROUTINE TO MOSCOW

FALKLANDS: BELGIAN ATTITUDE

1. BOTH KING BAUDOVIN AND THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WERE POSITIVE IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR BRITISH POLICY WHEN I SAW THEM ON 4 MAY IN CONNECTION WITH MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.
2. AS I HAVE REPORTED BY TELEPHONE, MR TINDEMANS RECEIVED ME EARLY IN THE DAY AT SHORT NOTICE, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SEE ME DURING A BRIEF 36 HOUR STOP IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN VISITS TO THE MIDDLE EAST. (CURRENT BELGIAN PRACTICE IS FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO SEE AMBASSADORS ONLY AFTER THEY HAVE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS). HIS PRIMARY INTEREST IN RECEIVING ME QUICKLY WAS APPARENTLY RELATED TO THE EC BUDGET QUESTION(SEE MIFT), AND HE INITIALLY COMMENTED ON THE FALKLANDS ONLY IN RELATION TO IT AS SOMETHING

COMMENTED ON THE FALKLANDS ONLY IN RELATION TO IT AS SOMETHING WHICH HAD HELPED TO DISRUPT PROGRESS TOWARDS A COMPROMISE ON THE BUDGET ETC. WHEN I TOOK A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S RAPID AND VALUABLE SUPPORT FOR BRITISH POLICY UNDER THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY, HE SAID IMMEDIATELY THAT THE BRITISH COULD OF COURSE ALWAYS COUNT ON BELGIAN SUPPORT, BUT AGREED THAT THE EC UNITY ON THE ISSUE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING. HE SAID HE HAD VARIOUS INDICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SURPRISE THAT THE TEN HAD BEEN ABLE TO AGREE THEIR POSITION SO RAPIDLY. EG FROM THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR HERE AND WHEN HE WAS IN KUWAIT.

3. WHEN I MENTIONED ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO YOUR EC COLLEAGUES ON THE SUBJECT SOON, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR CAIRO TOMORROW (5 MAY) AT ABOUT 11 AM LOCAL TIME, BUT WOULD, OF COURSE, DELAY HIS DEPARTURE IF THERE WERE ANY URGENT DEVELOPMENTS.

4. AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF MY CREDENTIALS THE KING DEVOTED VIRTUALLY ALL OF A TWENTY MINUTE TETE A TETE TO THE FALKLANDS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE TENSIONS WHICH THE ISSUE WAS CAUSING IN THE WORLD. HE TOO SAID HOW PLEASED HE WAS HOWEVER THAT EUROPE HAD BEEN ABLE TO UNITE SO QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY ON THE ISSUE. IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES WERE AT STAKE, AND HMG HAD CLEARLY DONE THE RIGHT THING, GIVING FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC SKILL THEY HAD DISPLAYED IN RECENT YEARS.

5. THE KING SAID HE HOPED THAT HMG WOULD USE THEIR SUPERIOR MILITARY FORCE CAREFULLY, AND I ASSURED HIM THAT WE WERE STRIVING TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WITH THE MINIMUM USE OF FORCE POSSIBLE. HE ALSO SAID HE FEARED THAT WHICHEVER WAY THE MATTER ENDED, IT WOULD ONLY BE TO SOVIET ADVANTAGE. HE WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT GIVEN THE CLOSE ARGENTINE/SOVIET CONTACTS, THE JUNTA MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY ENCOURAGED BY THE SOVIET UNION TO LAUNCH THEIR INVASION.

6. NEITHER THE KING NOR TINDEMANS MADE ANY OTHER REFERENCE TO RECENT BRITISH MILITARY OPERATIONS. TINDEMANS ALSO TOOK THE LINE IN A RADIO INTERVIEW EARLY ON 4 MAY THAT SO FAR AS EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN WAS CONCERNED, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S POSITION WAS ONE OF COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK. HOWEVER THE UNEXPECTED OUTCOME OF TODAY'S EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, WHILE NOT CALLING INTO QUESTION BELGIAN SUPPORT, SUGGESTS THAT TINDEMANS MAY HAVE BEEN OVER SANGUINE. (12 AM) ~~HE WAS~~ SENDING A

THAT TINDEMANS MAY HAVE BEEN OVER SANGUINE. (~~WE ARE~~ SENDING A
SEPARATE ASSESSMENT IN RESPONSE TO YOUR TELNO 96 ON THE
PROSPECTS OF ANY IMPORT BAN RENEWAL).

JACKSON

NNNN

SENT AT 041735Z AGP

BUFO 004/04