

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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PS
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR ONSLOW
 PS/PUS
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ADAMS
 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE
 ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
 ED/DEF B
 ED/NEWS D
 ED/UND
 ED/PLANNING STAFF
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
 RESIDENT CLERK

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 PS/CHANCELLOR)
 SIR K COUZENS)
 MR LITTLER)
 MR HAWTIN)
 MR PERETZ) TREASURY
 MR ILETT)
 MR McINTYRE)

MISS DICKSON (EIP 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)

ADVANCE COPY
 IMMEDIATE

PP UKDEL NATO

PP LIMA

GRS 600

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY FCO 041300Z

DESKBY WASHINGTON 041400Z

DESKBY UKMIS NEW YORK 041400Z

FM MADRID 041020Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 242 OF 4 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO PRIORITY GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL), LIMA, UKDEL NATO.

MY TELEGRAM NO. 241 : SPANISH POSITION ON THE FALKLANDS

WHEN CUENCA (DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY) CONTACTED ME THIS MORNING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT (SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM) I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENQUIRE FURTHER ON THE WILINGNESS OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO HELP IN

(SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM) I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENQUIRE FURTHER ABOUT THE ALLEGED WILLINGNESS OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO HELP IN ANY WAY TOWARDS A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION. THIS IS SPLASHED OVER THIS MORNING'S SPANISH PRESS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN DUE TO GO TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK IN ANY CASE FOR BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE US GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE BASES AGREEMENT ON 5 AND 6 MAY. BUT THE PRESS CLAIM THAT HE ACCELERATED HIS DEPARTURE YESTERDAY IN ORDER TO SEE THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK TODAY.

2. CUENCA CONFIRMED THE SPANISH POSITION AS SUMMARISED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. SPAIN HAD INDEED MADE NO SPECIFIC OFFER OF MEDIATION, AS PEREZ LLORCA HAD PUBLICLY MADE CLEAR. BUT HE WENT ON TO IMPLY THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT (NECESSARILY THE FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF) WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO SPAIN TRYING TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, IF THIS WERE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. PEREZ LLORCA WOULD ASSESS THE POSITION AFTER SEEING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN AND AFTER HIS FIRST TALK WITH HAIG WHICH MIGHT BE IN WASHINGTON THIS EVENING. SPANISH WILLINGNESS TO JOIN IN AN INITIATIVE WOULD DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THOSE TALKS. (AT THE TIME I HAD NOT SEEN UKMIS NEW YORK TELEGRAM NO. 642 ABOUT A POSSIBLE IMMINENT MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THIS MIGHT AFFECT PEREZ LLORCA'S PLANS).

3. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY FRANKLY TO CUENCA, AS THE EUROPEAN EXPERT IN THE MINISTRY, THAT WE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED AND CONCERNED BY RECENT STATEMENTS OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THESE HAD APPEARED TO LINE UP SPAIN MORE CLOSELY WITH ARGENTINA THAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS. IT WAS SURELY DISTURBING THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT NOW FOUND THEMSELVES OUT OF STEP WITH THE COMMUNITY, NATO AND INDEED THE REST OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. CUENCA SAID THAT THE MINISTRY WERE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THESE POINTS. HE HOPED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH ME SHORTLY TO RESUME OUR DIALOGUE OVER GIBRALTAR. THIS GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE STRONG HOPE THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT COULD REFRAIN FROM, OR AT LEAST LIMIT, ANY FUTURE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE FALKLANDS. THESE WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR DIALOGUE OVER GIBRALTAR.

4. I CANNOT BE HOPEFUL THAT, IN THE PRESENT MOOD OF SPANISH OPINION THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD FEEL ABLE TO PLAY A HELPFUL PART OVER THE FALKLANDS, AS THE MOTHER COUNTRY OF THE HISPANIC WORLD AND THE ONLY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO FAIL TO CONDEMN THE ORIGINAL ARGENTINE AGGRESSION. THE DAMAGE POTENTIAL OF SPAIN COULD BE CONSIDERABLE, GIVEN ALSO THEIR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AFTER PEREZ-LLORCA'S TALK WITH PEREZ DE QUELLA AND HAIG, SIR A PARSONS AND /OR SIR N HENDERSON

