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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 259 OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, PRIORITY PORT STANLEY

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ARGENTINA/FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE PRESS COMMENT

1. TODAY'S LOCAL PRESS GIVES HEADLINE TREATMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER CAMILION'S DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN NEW YORK ON 23 SEPTEMBER. BASED PRIMARILY ON CAMILION'S OWN PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING, THE ACCOUNTS, QUOTING DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN NEW YORK, PRESENT THE TALKS AS A MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE FALKLANDS NEGOTIATIONS, WITH BRITAIN AGREEING FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH ARGENTINA THAT THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE ISLANDS COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED.

2. CAMILION, WHO IS REPORTED AS HAVING EMERGED VISIBLY SATISFIED FROM THE TALKS, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT QUOTE LORD CARRINGTON ADVANCED TO THE POINT OF SAYING THAT THE PRESENT STATUS QUO IS DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN TODAY UNQUOTE AND THAT BOTH AGREED ON THE NEED FOR IT TO BE CHANGED. CAMILION IS REPORTED AS HAVING CALLED FOR QUOTE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS UNQUOTE IN NEGOTIATIONS IN 1982, WITH A LOWER-LEVEL MEETING TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION IN CAMILION'S REMARKS ABOUT THE LIKELY CONTENT OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BOTH A HONG KONG-STYLE LEASE-BACK SOLUTION AND A FREEZE WERE REJECTED IN NEW YORK EARLIER THIS YEAR.

3. PRESS REPORTS ALSO QUOTE CAMILION AS REHEARSING FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE NON-PRODUCTIVITY OF NEGOTIATIONS SO FAR, ALLEGED BRITISH FOOT-DRAGGING, THE POOR ISLANDER RESPONSE TO ARGENTINE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONTACTS AND MATERIAL CONDITIONS, AND THE NEED FOR A NEW IMPETUS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. SOME REPORTS REFER TO THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH LORD CARRINGTON SAW IN DOING ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER THE FALKLAND ISLAND ELECTIONS. CAMILION IS REPORTED AS DISMISSING THE ELECTIONS AS BEING OF NO IMPORTANCE TO ARGENTINA.

4. THERE IS A BRIEF REPORT IN ONE PAPER OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF DAISY HOBSON, BUT WITHOUT COMMENT.

WILLIAMS

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