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GRS 487  
SECRET  
PERSONAL  
TELELETTER

Aw 040/325/2		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 78		
25 SEP 1981		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

FROM P R FEARN, SOUTH AMERICA DEPARTMENT

DATED 23 SEPT 1981

FOLLOWING FOR A J WILLIAMS ESQ CMG, BUENOS AIRES  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

- (35) Aw 040/522/1
1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TELEGRAM NO 256. IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE THIS ASSESSMENT OF CAMILION'S INTENTIONS FOR TODAY'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN NEW YORK.
  2. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, SOME ACCOUNT OF WHERE WE NOW STAND ON OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES, FOLLOWING THE STRATEGY MEETING IN JUNE. MINISTERS HAVE SINCE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE POLICY PROPOSALS WE THEN IDENTIFIED. AS REX HUNT WILL ALREADY HAVE TOLD YOU, THEY HAVE DECIDED THAT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS MUST AT THIS STAGE CONTINUE TO PREVENT US FROM TAKING ANY STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED EITHER AS PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE ISLANDERS OR AS OVERRULING THEIR WISHES. SPECIFICALLY, THIS MEANS THAT AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN THE ISLANDS AND THE UK HAS, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, BEEN RULED OUT. OUR POLICY WILL THEREFORE BE, AS BEFORE, TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE THE ISLANDERS TO SEE THE MERITS OF SOLVING THE DISPUTE BUT WITHOUT OVERT PRESSURE. AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM MY TELEGRAM OF TODAY'S DATE TO UKMIS NEW YORK THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL BE MAKING CLEAR TO CAMILION THAT WE WISH TO END THE DISPUTE: THAT WE THEREFORE WISH TO CONTINUE A NEGOTIATING DIALOGUE: BUT THAT WE CAN ACT ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLANDERS' WISHES.
  3. WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE LIKELY ARGENTINE REACTION TO THIS, OR ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH WILL FACE US AND THEM, IF THE OUTCOME OF THE ISLAND ELECTIONS IS AS WE EXPECT IT TO BE. IF WE ALLOW THE ARGENTINES TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ROAD TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS CLOSED AND THAT THEY MUST LOOK TO OTHER MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEIR GOAL, THEN IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SCOPE FOR DAMAGE TO BRITISH AND ISLANDER INTERESTS IS

Mr Smyth  
Mr A Smyth  
24/9

VERY GREAT. BUT MINISTERS CONSIDER THAT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL RISKS OF ACTING OTHER THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ISLANDERS' WISHES ARE EVEN GREATER. THIS VIEW MAY OF COURSE BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS. BUT FOR THE PRESENT WE CANNOT GO FURTHER.

4. I KNOW YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ADOPT A MORE FORWARD POLICY. YOUR OWN POSITION IS LIKELY TO BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT, AS WILL OURS. OUR LIMITED AIM NOW WILL BE TO PERSUADE THE NEW ISLAND COUNCILLORS TO AGREE TO A FURTHER NEGOTIATING ROUND WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO ANY SPECIFIC SOVEREIGNTY APPROACH AND TO HOPE THAT THEY WILL BEGIN TO SEE THE ADVANTAGES OF WORKING TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT. AS WE SEE IT, OUR BEST HOPE OF ACHIEVING THIS WOULD BE FOR THE ARGENTINES TO BE READY TO PUT FORWARD NEW PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN. IN THIS RESPECT THE PASSAGE IN PARENTHESES IN PARA 1 OF YOUR TELEGRAM IS DISCOURAGING. IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO PERSUADE COUNCILLORS TO COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IF THEY WERE GOING TO LISTEN TO ARGENTINE PROPOSALS RATHER THAN HELP FORM BRITISH ONES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL BE MAKING THIS POINT TO CAMILION TOO: WE HOPE HE WILL SEE THE SENSE OF IT.

CARRINGTON