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DESKBY 261900Z  
FM FCO 261800Z MAY 82  
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1065 OF 26 MAY  
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 1889: HAIG'S VIEWS ON FALKLANDS

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING AS A FIRST RESPONSE FROM ME TO HAIG'S LATEST MESSAGE.

BEGINS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE MESSAGE WHICH I RECEIVED YESTERDAY MORNING. YOU HAVE RAISED SOME VERY IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT QUESTIONS.

I DO OF COURSE UNDERSTAND THE DANGER OF ARGENTINA TURNING TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION. AND WE IN LONDON ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RISK OF ARGENTINE MILITARY STRIKES AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AFTER WE HAVE REPOSSESSED THEM. I WAS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND IMPORTANT OFFER OF AN AMERICAN BATTALION TO HELP IN DETERRING ANY ARGENTINE MOVE TO INVADE THE ISLANDS AGAIN IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE THINKING HARD ABOUT ALL THESE PROBLEMS.

2. IN THE MEANTIME I SHOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING OF THE FLAVOUR OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION HERE. WITH THE CONTINUED REFUSAL OF ARGENTINA TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRITISH BRIDGEHEAD IN THE FALKLANDS, THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR CHANGE IN PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC OPINION IN BRITAIN. IT WOULD NO LONGER BE REALISTIC TO ASK PEOPLE HERE TO ACCEPT THE IDEAS OF AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION OR MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FALKLANDS. THEY ARE JUST NOT POLITICAL STARTERS NOW. AFTER THE EVENTS OF RECENT DAYS, AND THE BRITISH LOSSES AS WELL AS OUR MILITARY PROGRESS, WHAT

PEOPLE WANT TO SEE IS THE REPOSSESSION OF THE ISLANDS AND THE RESTORATION OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THOSE WILL OF COURSE ENABLE US TO CONSULT THE ISLANDERS IN DUE TIME ABOUT THEIR WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.

3. ONE QUESTION I AM THEREFORE CONSIDERING IS WHETHER SOME OF THE IDEAS MENTIONED IN YOUR MESSAGE, AND PARTICULARLY YOUR OFFER OF A BATTALION, COULD BE USED AT A SOMEWHAT LATER STAGE. I MAY WANT TO COME BACK TO YOU ON THIS.

4. MEANWHILE, LET ME STRESS THAT I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR BRITAIN AND THE US TO MAINTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH THE LATIN AMERICA COUNTRIES - ESPECIALLY THE MODERATES. I HAVE SPOKEN TODAY ON THE BBC LATIN AMERICAN SERVICE IN TERMS WHICH I HOPE WILL GO DOWN WELL IN THOSE COUNTRIES. THE PRIME MINISTER AND I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OUR OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN BRASIL, COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PERU AND ELSE WHERE. BRITISH AMBASSADORS THROUGHOUT THE AREA HAVE TODAY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE APPROACHES ABOUT THE OAS MEETING LATER THIS WEEK.

5. I GREATLY VALUE OUR EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES AND YOUR FREQUENT TALKS WITH NICKO HENDERSON. WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, THINGS WOULD BE FAR HARDER FOR US IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS. ENDS.

PYM

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FALKLANDS SELECTIVE  
LIMITED  
HD/EMERGENCY UNIT  
HD/S AM D  
HD/DEF D  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
HD/UND  
HD/NEWS D  
HD/ERD  
HD/ECD (E)  
HD/PUSD  
DEP HD/PUSD  
HD/RES D  
PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/LORD BELSTEAD  
PS/FUS  
MR BULLARD  
SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
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MR URE  
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MR O'NEILL  
HD/ASSESSMENTS STAFF  
MR COLVIN  
DIO  
MR J M STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD  
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