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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO LONDON AND BUENOS AIRES

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PBTS, PREL, EFIS, US, AR, UK, GE
SUBJECT: REPORTED FRG OFFER TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS
FALKLAND/MALVINAS ISLANDS

REF: STATE 345734

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON NOVEMBER 4 POLITICAL COUNSELOR SPOKE WITH CHANCELLERY ADVISOR IMMO STABREIT CONCERNING THE REPO FRG OFFER TO FACILITATE TALKS ON THE FALKLAND/MALVINAS ISLANDS (REFTEL). EMBOFF ALSO TALKED SEPARATELY ON TH MATTER WITH CHRISTIAN UEBERSCHAER, CHANCELLERY STAFF MEMBER WITH IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ISSUE. THEIR ACCOUNTS OF THE KOHL-ALFONSIN EXCHANGE WERE CONSISTENT.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR INTERLOCUTORS: ON OCTOBER 30 ALFON TRIED TO REACH KOHL, WHO WAS AWAY FROM HIS OFFICE. A CHANCELLERY STAFF MEMBER PROMISED THAT KOHL WOULD CALL BACK, WHICH HE DID ON OCTOBER 31 (STABREIT WAS PRESENT). IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION, THE CHANCELLER TOLD PRESIDENT ALFONSIN THAT THERE WAS LITTLE THAT THE GERMANS COULD DO TO ASSIST THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ARGENTINA IN RESOLVING THEIR CURRENT DIFFERENCES. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO COMMITMENT OF ANY KIND, AND NO FURTHER CONTACT BETWEEN TWO LEADERS ON THE SUBJECT WAS ANTICIPATED.

4. STABREIT TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT, WHILE THE GERMANS HAD NOT DETERMINED PRECISELY WHAT POSTURE THEY WOULD ASSUME ON THE DISPUTE, CAPUTO APPEARED TO HAVE AN EXAGGERATED NOTION OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED IN THE CALL. UEBERSCHAER EMPHASIZED THAT THE GERMAN POSITION WAS ONE NEUTRALITY BETWEEN A CLOSE ALLY AND A GOOD FRIEND, AND BOTH STABREIT AND UEBERSCHAER INDICATED THAT THE CHANCELLERY ALREADY HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS (IMPLICITLY TH ONGOING CONTRETEMPS OVER KOHL'S COMPARISON OF GORBACHEV AND GOEBBLES), AND DID NOT NEED TO TAKE ON ANY MORE.

5. COMMENT: WE WERE LEFT WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THA

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THE GERMANS INTENDED TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE
FALKLANDS DISPUTE AND TO PLAY NO INTERMEDIARY ROLE.
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