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TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELNO 585 OF 25/9/79

FOLLOWING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE FROM MR RIDLEY

ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. FOLLOWING YOUR LUNCHTIME DISCUSSION AT CHEQUERS LAST SATURDAY, I HAVE TODAY DISCUSSED THE O D PAPER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. SHE TAKES THE VIEW THAT WE CANNOT RUSH A DECISION OF PRINCIPLE ON OUR APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, BUT SHOULD INSTEAD TAKE THE WHOLE QUESTION TO AN EARLY MEETING OF O D.

2. MEANWHILE, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD PREFER THAT WHEN YOU SEE THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER YOU SHOULD CONFINE YOURSELF TO SAYING THAT HMG HAVE NOT COMPLETED THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM. AS I WARNED COMMODORE CAVANDOLI IN JULY, THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE PRESSURE OF OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (EG RHODESIA) HAVE CAUSED SOME DELAY IN THIS PROCESS. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE PREMATURE FOR YOU TO AGREE DATES WITH PASTOR FOR MY NEXT MEETING WITH CAVANDOLI. NOR WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE TO SPEAK AT THIS STAGE ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY.

CARRINGTON

FILES

SAMD

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/PUS

SIR. A. DUFF

MR HARDING

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MR ALEXANDER, NO 10 DOWNING S

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