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 TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES
 GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 49 OF 7 APRIL 1982

ARGENTINE INVASION OF FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. IN REPLYING TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, AND IN KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCREDITED INFORMED OF THE SITUATION, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD CARRINGTON IN THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON SATURDAY 3 APRIL (SENT TO YOU IN THE RETRACT SERIES) AND THE STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE COMMONS ON 7 APRIL.

2. IN PARTICULAR, YOU MAY FIND USEFUL THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF ACTION WE HAVE TAKEN SINCE THE INVASION ON THE DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC FRONTS. THIS CAN BE DEPLOYED FREELY. POSTS CONCERNED SHOULD KNOW THAT BRIEFINGS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON OF EC, COMMONWEALTH AND ASEAN COUNTRIES, ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS ON 5 AND 6 APRIL.

I. - DIPLOMATIC ACTION

A. UN SECURITY COUNCIL: AT BRITAIN'S REQUEST, THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 3 APRIL ADOPTED A MANDATORY RESOLUTION (RESOLUTION 502) WHICH CALLS FOR, INTER ALIA, AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ARGENTINE FORCES FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY TEN VOTES TO ONE (PANAMA) WITH FOUR ABSTENTIONS.

B. FRIENDS AND ALLIES: WE HAVE ASKED OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HELP, AT THE UN AND ELSEWHERE. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON 2 APRIL CONDEMNING ARGENTINA'S ACTION AND CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF HER FORCES. AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, HELD ON 2 APRIL AT BRITAIN'S REQUEST, MEMBERS EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN AT THE DISPUTE AND REITERATED THE CALL TO THE PARTIES BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE

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SECURITY COUNCIL TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE. THE US AND OUR OTHER MAJOR NATO ALLIES HAVE CONDEMNED THE USE OF FORCE BY ARGENTINA. THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL HAVE BOTH ADDRESSED MESSAGES TO ALL COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ASKING FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN.

C. DIPLOMATIC ACTION ELSEWHERE: WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS, BOTH BEFORE AND SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, AS A RESULT OF WHICH A LARGE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE ARGENTINE ACTION. MANY OF THESE ARE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND FIVE NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (GUYANA, UGANDA, JORDAN, TOGO AND ZAIRE) VOTED FOR SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO 502.

II. - ECONOMIC MEASURES

A. THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 3 APRIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ACTION TO FREEZE ARGENTINE FINANCIAL ASSETS HELD IN THIS COUNTRY (FULLER DETAILS IN FCO TELNO 62 TO UKDEL IMF/IBRD WASHINGTON - NOT TO ALL) AND THAT THE EXPORT CREDITS GUARANTEE DEPARTMENT HAD SUSPENDED NEW EXPORT CREDIT COVER FOR ARGENTINA. ARMS DELIVERIES TO ARGENTINA HAVE ALSO BEEN BANNED, AND THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY (6 APRIL) A TOTAL BAN ON IMPORTS FROM ARGENTINA. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE REVIEWING THE SITUATION AND WILL BE READY TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS THAT THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE.

B. WE HAVE SENT MESSAGES TO OUR PARTNERS IN THE EC, WHOM WE ARE CONSULTING IN BRUSSELS, AND TO OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, DESCRIBING ALL THE ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH BRITAIN HAS TAKEN AND ASKING THEM TO TAKE PARALLEL ACTION. REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE SIMILAR MEASURES OF THEIR OWN TO INCREASE THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA.

3. IN SPEAKING TO LOCAL CONTACTS, YOU SHOULD STRESS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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A. BRITAIN HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE. A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS, THE MOST RECENT IN NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, WHICH WAS CORDIAL AND POSITIVE (THOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT PUBLISHED IN BUENOS AIRES), BOTH SIDES 'REAFFIRMED THEIR RESOLVE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE'.

B. EVEN WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NO LONGER TO PURSUE A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, BRITAIN CONTINUED STRENUOUSLY TO SEEK TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION, FIRST BY PROPOSING THE DESPATCH OF A BRITISH EMISSARY TO BUENOS AIRES TO DISCUSS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY REPRESENTATIONS TO THIRD PARTIES, AS A RESULT OF WHICH FOR EXAMPLE, MESSAGES WERE SENT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL (TO BOTH PARTIES) AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES URGING RESTRAINT ON THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT.

C. THE ARGENTINE ACTION IS AN ACT OF BLATANT AGGRESSION AND A CLEAR VIOLATION BOTH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE FUNDAMENTAL UN PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS. THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS MADE THIS CLEAR BY CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ARGENTINE FORCES FROM THE FALKLANDS. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PUT ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CHARTER IN RESPECT OF SECURITY COUNCIL DECISIONS UNDER CHAPTER VII. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, TALK OF MEDIATION OR ARBITRATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE IS INAPPROPRIATE.

D. UNLESS THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING ARGENTINA TO WITHDRAW, IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IN FUTURE TO PREVENT OTHER ACTS OF AGGRESSION BY POWERFUL COUNTRIES AGAINST THEIR SMALLER OR WEAKER NEIGHBOURS.

4. IF ASKED ABOUT THE LIKELY COURSE OF EVENTS SHOULD ARGENTINA FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION YOU SHOULD

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DECLINE TO SPECULATE, BUT SHOULD STRESS THAT THE FULL WEIGHT OF
BRITAIN'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED AT SECURING
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION.

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