

IMMEDIATE ADVANCE COPY [PLEASE RETURN COPY TO TYPISTS]

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FALKLANDS SELECTIVE ADVANCES (37)

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
PS/LORD BELSTEAD
MR BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR GILLMORE
MR URE
MR BARRETT
HD/S AM D
HD/DEF D
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/UND
HD/NEWS D
HD/ERD
HD/PUSD
MR REED, PUSD
EMERGENCY ROOM
RESIDENT CLERK

ms

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET (2 copies)
PS/S OF S DEFENCE
PS/HOME SECRETARY
PS/HOME SECRETARY (c/o NO 10 DSt)
PS/ATTORNEY GENERAL
PS/CHANCELLOR DUCHY OF LANCASTER
PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG
PS/SIR M PALLISER
PS/SIR A DUFF
MR WADE-GERY
MR FULLER
MR COLVIN
MR O'NEILL HD ASSESS-
MENTS STAFF
DIO
MR J M STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
ADMIRAL SIR ROY HALLIDAY DGI MOD
DIRECTOR G.C.H.Q. (via Room 8)

CABINET
OFFICE

SECRET

FM WASHINGTON 251921Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1889 OF 25 MAY
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK,

MIPT: FALKLANDS.

1. AFTER I HAD SEEN EAGLEBURGER, HAIG ASKED ME TO LOOK IN. HE SAID THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A BRIEFING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT HE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED MILITARILY WITHIN A WEEK. SOME OF THOSE PRESENT HAD THEN PROCEEDED TO TELL THE PRESS THAT THIS WAS HAIG'S FORECAST (EXCLAM).

2. I THANKED HAIG FOR THE INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD SENT MRS KIRKPATRICK, ADDING THAT WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT SHE MIGHT BE COOKING UP WITH THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (FOR WHOM HE HAS AN EQUALLY LOW REGARD). HAIG TOLD ME THAT CHEYSSON WAS COMPLETELY UNRELIABLE. HE HAD JUST TELEPHONED HIM (HAIG) TO SAY THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE US AND FRANCE MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES IN ISOLATION WITH THE UK IN VOTING AGAINST THE IRISH DRAFT RESOLUTION. HE COULD NOT ALLOW THIS

VOTING AGAINST THE IRISH DRAFT RESOLUTION. HE COULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. THE FRENCH WERE LIKELY TO ABSTAIN. HAIG HAD TRIED TO PUT SOME MORE BACKBONE INTO HIM. HAIG AGREED THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT HAVE GOT AN UNCERTAIN IMPRESSION OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS VIA MRS KIRKPATRICK. HE HAD BEEN AT PAINS TO CORRECT THIS.

3. HAIG WAS ANXIOUS TO GET MY REACTIONS TO THE MESSAGE HE SENT ME LAST NIGHT. I HAD NOT THEN RECEIVED YOUR TELNO 1043 THE GIST OF WHICH I WILL PASS ON. BUT I SAID THAT HE WOULD REALISE THAT IT CONTAINED ELEMENTS THAT WERE IMPOSSIBLE FOR US AND DID NOT FIT THE PRESENT MOOD IN PARLIAMENT OR THE COUNTRY.

4. HAIG SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND THAT WE WOULD NOT NOW ACCEPT MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL. HIS NIGHTMARE, HOWEVER, WAS THAT FOLLOWING THE CAPITULATION OF THE ARGENTINE GARRISON, ARGENTINA WOULD REMAIN IN A STATE OF WAR WITH US OVER THE FALKLANDS WITH CONTINUING AIR FORCE AND SUBMARINE ACTIVITY. THEY WOULD GET HELP FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND CERTAINLY ALSO FROM CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHO WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HELP TO RE-ARM THEM.

5. I INTERJECTED THAT WE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF THE LONGER TERM. THE PRESENT SITUATION HAD BEEN FORCED ON US BY THE JUNTA. THE FIRST STEP MUST BE TO GET THE ARGENTINES OFF THE ISLANDS. HAIG AGREED THAT WE HAD BEEN ABSOLUTELY JUSTIFIED IN THE MILITARY ACTION WE HAD TAKEN. HE APPLAUDED ITS SUCCESS. IN RESISTING AGGRESSION WE WERE DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF THE FREE WORLD. WE SHOULD BE IN NO DOUBT WHERE HIS LOYALTIES LAY, NAMELY WITH US. THE SAME WENT FOR THE PRESIDENT, WITH WHOM, AS HE HAD TOLD ME, HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION AT LENGTH YESTERDAY.

6. HAIG ALSO AGREED THAT NOTHING WAS LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED UNTIL WE REACHED THE POINT OF HIGHEST MILITARY PRESSURE. HE ARGUED THAT WE WOULD THEN FACE A TEST OF STATESMANSHIP. THAT WOULD BE THE MOMENT FOR SOME MAGNANIMOUS PROPOSAL TO ARGENTINA TO OFFER SOME WAY OF BRINGING MILITARY ACTIVITY TO AN END, WHILE PROVIDING FOR THE SECURITY OF THE ISLANDS. THIS WAS WHY HE HAD PROPOSED THAT THE US SHOULD BE READY TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS FOR A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. HE HAD ALSO PERSUADED THE BRAZILIANS THAT THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE (THOUGH THEY SEEMED TO THINK THAT BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE OBJECTIONABLE TO ARGENTINA BECAUSE OF THEIR TRADITIONAL RIVALRY). HE HOPED THAT YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO BE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT THE LONGER TERM.

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7. IN THE SHORT TERM, THE AMERICANS FACED SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE OAS MEETING ON THURSDAY. THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO GET THE BLOCKING THIRD REQUIRED TO PREVENT A MAJORITY IN FAVOUR OF SOME KIND OF SANCTIONS, THOUGH THEY WOULD BE DOING THEIR BEST. HE AGREED THAT LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA VARIED MARKEDLY FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER. BUT MOST OF THEM WOULD SHOW SOME SUPPORT.

8. HAIG CONCLUDED BY MAKING IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT HE HOPES THAT WE WILL WIN MILITARILY AND SOON, BUT IN DOING SO WILL OFFER SOME PROPOSAL WHICH WILL HELP THE LONG-TERM AND INTERESTS IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND THOSE OF THE US.

HENDERSON

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