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30524 - 2

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DESKBY 301800Z

FM FCO 301700Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 77 OF 30 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR), WASHINGTON.

BUENOS AIRES TELNO 116: SOUTH GEORGIA

1. PLEASE NOW PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER.

BEGINS

OUR AMBASSADOR HAS PASSED TO ME YOUR MESSAGE OF 28 MARCH ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH GEORGIA. THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS POSITION WHICH HAS NOW DEVELOPED HAS IN NO WAY BEEN OF OUR SEEKING. AS OUR AMBASSADOR HAS EMPHASISED TO YOU, OUR OBJECTIVE THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN TO SEEK A SOLUTION WHICH BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS CAN ACCEPT. A CONFRONTATION, WHICH COULD HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES AND WHICH WOULD SERIOUSLY PREJUDICE OUR ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE WHOLE FALKLANDS ISSUE THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION, IS IN NEITHER OF OUR INTERESTS.

I HAD HOPED THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM ALONG THE LINES WHICH YOU HAD YOURSELF EARLIER DISCUSSED WITH OUR AMBASSADOR. BUT CLEARLY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXPLORE THIS AND OTHER IDEAS FURTHER. TO THIS END I WOULD PROPOSE SENDING A SENIOR OFFICIAL AS MY PERSONAL EMISSARY TO BUENOS AIRES TO WORK OUT WITH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE COMMERCIAL SALVAGE CONTRACT ON SOUTH GEORGIA TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT INFRINGE OUR OWN POSITION. MY REPRESENTATIVE (JOHN URE - THE SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AMERICAS IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE) WOULD COME WITH CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS. I WOULD VIEW THE DEFUSING OF THIS INCIDENT AS PREPARING THE WAY

1

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30524 - 2

FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE ON BROADER ISSUES ON WHICH  
RICHARD LUCE WAS ENGAGED WITH AMBASSADOR ROS IN NEW YORK LAST  
MONTH.  
ENDS

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