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LFN NR 794/86

RR FCO

GRS 228

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM MUSCAT 050928Z MAY 82

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 142 OF 5 MAY

MY TELNO 132: FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. WHEN MIERS AND I CALLED ON THE SULTAN YESTERDAY I THANKED HIM FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH THE OMAN GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED US OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

2. THE SULTAN CONFIRMED THAT OMAN FULLY SUPPORTS BRITAIN. BUT HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY DISTURBED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES. IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES HE THOUGHT THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE SUPPORTED US RIGHT FROM THE START. THE NEUTRAL POSITION WHICH THE AMERICANS HAD ADOPTED INITIALLY HAD BEEN WORRYING FOR OTHER COUNTRIES WITH TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES, SINCE IT MADE THEM WONDER WHETHER THEY COULD REALLY RELY ON THE AMERICANS IN A CRISIS. THE SULTAN SAID THAT HAD THE AMERICANS NOT COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE HE WOULD HAVE CANCELLED HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS A MARK OF DISAPPROVAL. THE SULTAN ADDED THAT HE WAS TELLING ME THIS "FOR THE RECORD" AND OBVIOUSLY INTENDED IT TO BE PASSED ON TO YOU.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ROBUST LINE WHICH THE SULTAN HAS TAKEN I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US IN DUE COURSE TO SEND HIM A MESSAGE OF THANKS, IDEALLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

SLATER