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H.M.Tsy

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FM BONN 090845Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 313 OF 9 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK(SITCEN)BMG BERLIN EMBASSY BRUSSELS UKDEL NATO

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FALKANDS

1. HERR GENSCHER, WHO RETURNED FROM BRAZIL ON 7 APRIL, WAS BRIEFED BY HIS STAFF YESTERDAY ON THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. LIMMER (AUS FOR LATIN AMERICA AND HEAD OF THE FALKLANDS EMERGENCY UNIT) TOLD HEAD OF CHANCERY AFTERWARDS THAT GENSCHER WOULD BE RESTING OVER THE WEEK-END, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME AT 1130 ON 13 APRIL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SITUATION. ASKED IF GENSCHER HAD ANY ASPECTS PARTICULARLY IN MIND, LIMMER SAID HE THOUGHT GENSCHER WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANYTHING I COULD TELL HIM ABOUT OUR THINKING AND OUR POLITICAL STRATEGY (SEE NEXT PARA). HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE WAS ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE HIM TO SAY TO THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE SAW HIM LATER IN

HIM TO SAY TO THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE SAW HIM LATER IN THE WEEK. (THE AMBASSADOR, ROBERTO GUYER, FORMER SENIOR UN OFFICIAL IS AT PRESENT IN NEW YORK BUT EXPECTED BACK HERE NEXT WEEK).

2. HUNTER EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION OF THE FEDERAL CABINET'S STATEMENT OF 7 APRIL, AND THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN, LIMMER SAID IT HAD BEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INSTINCTIVE REACTION TO SUPPORT A MAJOR PARTNER AND ALLY WHICH WAS ALSO A PROTECTING POWER IN BERLIN. BUT IT WOULD QUOTE ENLARGE THE BASIS FOR SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE IF WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE THEM MORE INTO OUR CONFIDENCE ABOUT HOW WE INTENDED TO PLAY OUR HAND.

3. LIMMER FULLY AGREED THAT FAILURE TO REACT FIRMLY TO THE ARGENTINE INVASION WOULD MERELY HAVE ENCOURAGED OTHER SIMILAR ACTS OF AGGRESSION ELSEWHERE. BUT THE GERMANS WERE CONCERNED THAT IT MIGHT COME TO A SHOOTING MATCH, AMONG OTHER THINGS BECAUSE THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT ONCE THE SHOOTING BEGAN WE SHOULD LOSE MUCH OF OUR PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY IN THE THIRD WORLD BUT ALSO ELSEWHERE.

4. THE GERMANS HAD DECIDED NOT (NOT) TO WITHDRAW THEIR AMBASSADOR FROM BUENOS AIRES FOLLOWING, CLAIMED LIMMER, THE EXAMPLES OF FRANCE, ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS. UNLIKE THE OTHER MEASURES WE HAD SUGGESTED, WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE REMOVED A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITHOUT AFFECTING ARGENTINA'S WAR CAPABILITY.

5. GRATEFUL TO KNOW BY 130700Z WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO SAY
TO GENSCHER. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTY IN INFORMING EVEN OUR ALLIES OF OUR INTENTIONS, AND THAT AS FAR AS THE MILITARY SITUATION IS CONCERNED YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PERMIT ME TO SAY MORE THAN WHAT IS CONTAINED IN YOUR TEL 115 TO UKDEL NATO. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MORE WE CAN TAKE GENSCHER INTO OUR CONFIDENCE, THE BETTER THE CHANCES OF KEEPING THE GERMANS ON BOARD.

TAYLOR