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CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 101720Z APR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1227 OF 10 APRIL.

YOUR TELNO 689; FALKLANDS, POSSIBLE VISIT BY US OFFICIAL.

1. MINISTER HAS SPOKEN THIS MORNING TO EAGLEBURGER TO REINFORCE THE POINTS WE MADE YESTERDAY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT ANY TRAVEL TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AT PRESENT WOULD BE DANGEROUS BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT IF A US OFFICIAL WERE TO TRAVEL TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WITH ARGENTINE PERMISSION AND IN AN ARGENTINE MILITARY AIRCRAFT THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXPLOITED BY THE ARGENTINIAN JUNTA TO CLAIM US ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR AGGRESSION AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. THOMAS SAID THAT YOU WOULD GREATLY PREFER THE AMERICANS TO PUT THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND EFFORTS TO SECURE AN ICRC PRESENCE IN THE FALKLANDS. HE ASKED THAT YOUR VIEWS SHOULD BE CONVEYED URGENTLY TO HAIG BEFORE HE LEFT BUENOS AIRES.

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2. EAGLEBURGER HAD BEEN AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM BUT DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE RECOGNISED THE ANGLE WE WERE RAISING WITH HIM. HE UNDERTOOK TO GET A MESSAGE TO HAIG IMMEDIATELY. BUT HE SAID THAT WE WERE IN EFFECT ASKING THE US TO FOREGO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF US CITIZENS, THIS COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THEM. THOMAS SAID THAT IN CASES OF ARMED CONFLICT IT WAS OFTEN NECESSARY TO RELY ON THE ICRC FOR SUCH INFORMATION. WE WOULD GREATLY PREFER THAT THIS COURSE BE PURSUED IN THE PRESENT CASE.

HENDERSON

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