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FM WASHINGTON 111835Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1234 OF 11 APRIL
INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO. 1193

FALKLANDS: MRS. KIRKPATRICK

1. THE US PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN, JEANE KIRKPATRICK, WAS INTERVIEWED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION THIS MORNING. SHE SAID THAT THE MAIN US INTEREST IN THE PRESENT CRISIS WAS TO SEE IT RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. SHE DID NOT SEE A NEED FOR THE US TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA. THE ONLY APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE US WAS TO TRY AND HELP THE TWO COUNTRIES TO AVOID WAR.

2. ASKED ABOUT HER PRESENCE AT A DINNER GIVEN IN HER HONOUR BY THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR ON 2 APRIL, IE AFTER THE INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS, MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT SHE HAD CONSULTED OTHERS IN THE US GOVERNMENT BEFORE ATTENDING. THE US GOVERNMENT VIEW WAS THAT THEY HAD MADE THEIR POSITION CLEAR EG IN VOTING FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL

FALKLANDS, MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT SHE HAD CONSULTED OTHERS IN THE US GOVERNMENT BEFORE ATTENDING. THE US GOVERNMENT VIEW WAS THAT THEY HAD MADE THEIR POSITION CLEAR EG IN VOTING FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502 (SHE OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT ADOPTED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY) AND THAT, IF THE US WAS TO PLAY ANY USEFUL ROLE IT HAD TO KEEP OPEN ITS COMMUNICATIONS TO BOTH SIDES.

3. MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT THE US HAD NEVER TAKEN A POSITION ON THE OWNERSHIP OF THE FALKLANDS AND THAT THE ANALOGY BETWEEN ARGENTINIAN ACTION AND THE TAKING OF US HOSTAGES IN IRAN WAS A FALSE ONE. IF OWNERSHIP OF THE ISLANDS WERE CLEAR, THEN THE ARGENTINIAN MILITARY ACTION WOULD CLEARLY CONSTITUTE ARMED AGRESSION. BUT IF THE ARGENTINIANS OWNED THE FALKLANDS THEN MOVING IN TROOPS DID NOT CONSTITUTE ARMED AGRESSION, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE THE US DISAPPROVED OF IT.

4 MRS KIRKPATRICK WAS GIVEN QUITE A HARD TIME BY THE INTERVIEWER, WHO LIKENED THE PRETEXT FOR ARGENTINIAN ACTION TO GERMAN OCCUPATION OF THE SUDETENLAND. ASKED WHETHER SHE HAD ANY DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING NEUTRALITY BETWEEN AMERICA'S CLOSEST ALLY AND A COUNTRY WHICH HAD GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE NAZIS, MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT SHE FELT PROFOUNDLY CLOSE TO THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY, BUT THAT SHE HAD TO SEPARATE HER PRIVATE FEELINGS FROM HER OFFICIAL DUTIES. THERE WERE OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE US AND THE UK VOTED IN DIFFERENT WAYS EG ON THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT THAT DID NOT THREATEN THE BASIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

5. COMMENT. MRS KIRKPATRICK HAS LONG BEEN NOTED FOR HER PRO-ARGENTINE SYMPATHIES. HER FIRST MAJOR BOOK WAS ABOUT THE PERONIST MOVEMENT THERE. ARGENTINA WAS THE MODEL FOR HER DISTINCTION BETWEEN TOTALITARIAN AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. MRS KIRKPATRICK, LIKE ENDERS, LIKES TO MAKE MUCH OF THE ARGUMENT THAT, IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY REGIME THERE WILL BE A RETURN TO PERONISM AND ARGENTINA WILL TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION.

6. I RAISED THIS MATTER WITH HAIG ON 6 APRIL (MY TELEGRAM NO. 1169). MINISTER ALSO TOLD EAGLEBURGER THAT WE HAD BEEN SHOCKED TO HEAR ABOUT MRS KIRKPATRICK'S ATTENDANCE AT THE DINNER. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN VERY DISMAYED TO LEARN OF IT AND WOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED IF WE HAD NOT RAISED IT WITH HIM. HE DESCRIBED THE AFFAIR AS QUOTE DESPICABLE UNQUOTE AND INTENDED TO TAKE IT UP WITH STOESSEL.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN HER SPEECH AT THE DINNER IN HER HONOUR, MRS KIRKPATRICK PUT UP A CHARACTERISTIC PERFORMANCE. HAVING SUNG THE PRAISES OF ARGENTINA - THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE - SHE SAID THAT THE ONLY THING THEY WERE INCAPABLE OF DOING WAS GOVERNING THEMSELVES, THEREBY MANAGING TO DEFEND THE ARGENTINIANS.

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8. MRS KIRKPATRICK'S ATTITUDE AND ATTENDANCE AT THE ARGENTINE GALA DINNER HAVE BEEN DENOUNCED BY ANTHONY LEWIS IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AND MARY MCGRORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND IS CRITICISED AGAIN TODAY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. HER PERFORMANCE ON TELEVISION TODAY WAS LESS AGGRESSIVE THAN USUAL.

HENDERSON

(Sub on)

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