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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1977 OF 1 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK (FOR P/S S OF S AND CD5).

FALKLANDS: WHAT USA SUPPORT HAS MEANT.

1. IT IS NOW A LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION MADE ITS PUBLIC DECLARATION OF U S SUPPORT IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS AND PROMISED MATERIEL ASSISTANCE. THE DECISION ANNOUNCED BY HAIG ON 30 APRIL WAS NOT AUTOMATIC GIVEN OTHER U S INTERESTS AT STAKE. AS WILL BE EVIDENT FROM THE ACCOUNTS WE HAVE SENT YOU OF THE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE U S ADMINISTRATION, IT WAS NOT ARRIVED AT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. ON THE OTHER SIDE THERE WERE THOSE WHO ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PRESERVATION OF U S RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA: THE NEED TO GIVE THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS NO OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS HEMISPHERE: THE GENERAL ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF VIETNAM: AND THE WIDELY HELD VIEW, HOWEVER UNREASONABLE, THAT THE FALKLANDS ARE A QUOTE COLONIAL UNQUOTE PROBLEM. ALL THESE FACTIONS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE U S TO CONTINUE TO SIT ON THE FENCE. PRESERVING ITS ROLE AS A MEDIATOR.
2. THE U S ADMINISTRATION HAVING TAKEN ITS DECISION HAS STOOD FIRMLY BY IT, THOUGH MRS KIRKPATRICK AND THE LATIN AMERICAN SPECIALISTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE NSC HAVE CONSTANTLY AND MORE OR LESS PUBLICLY QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF CONTINUING PUBLIC SUPPORT. U S PUBLIC OPINION WHILE GENERALLY VERY SUPPORTIVE HAS ON OCCASIONS SHOWN SOME SIGNS OF WAVERING, WITH CONCERN ABOUT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGE TO U S INTERESTS. HAIG PUT UP A COURAGEOUS PERFORMANCE IN THE OAS LAST WEEK WHERE U S POLICY WAS UNIVERSALLY DENOUNCED. THE PRESIDENT HAS REMAINED FIRM IN SUPPORT OF HIS DECISION, THOUGH SOME OF THOSE AROUND HIM HAVE NOT. U S SUPPORT HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY ATTRIBUTABLE, HOWEVER TO THE EFFORTS OF HAIG AND WEINBERGER.



3. HAIG HAS I REALISE AN EXTREMELY DISCONCERTING TENDENCY TO SHIFT HIS POSITION FROM DAY TO DAY. HE IS HYPERACTIVE AND ANXIOUS TO GET INTO THE ACT AND EVER READY TO COME UP WITH SOME PLAN. THE CONTRADICTIONS WE GET IN HIS THINKING ARE ALSO A FUNCTION OF HIS CONCERN TO CONFIDE IN US AT EVERY STAGE, EVEN WHEN HIS IDEAS ARE HALF-FORMED.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND IT IS I THINK IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT U S ASSISTANCE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED: THAT IT REQUIRES CONSTANT WORKING ON THE U S ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION TO KEEP THEM IN THE RIGHT POSITION: AND THAT ITS VALUE TO US IS VERY GREAT.

5. I DO NOT NEED TO GO INTO DETAILS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN, THE FULL EXTENT OF WHICH IS WELLKNOWN TO THE JIC. SO FAR AS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ARE CONCERNED, THE AMERICANS HAVE MADE ESPECIALLY AVAILABLE SATELLITE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AT CONSIDERABLE COST TO THEIR OWN OPERATIONS, COMMUNICATION SETS FOR OUR SPECIAL FORCES ON THE ISLANDS, SECURE SPEECH FACILITIES WITH THE FLEET AND SATELLITE WEATHER INFORMATION. SO FAR AS EQUIPMENT IS CONCERNED, WE HAVE OVER THE LAST MONTH PROCURED AT LEAST DOLLARS 120 MILLION OF U S MATERIEL MADE AVAILABLE AT VERY SHORT NOTICE AND FREQUENTLY FROM STOCKS NORMALLY EARMARKED FOR U S OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. THIS EQUIPMENT HAS INCLUDED THE LATEST AIR TO AIR SIDE-WINDER MISSILES URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR USE BY THE HARRIERS, THE VULCAN PHALANX ANTI-MISSILE GUN SYSTEM FOR HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, 4700 TONS OF AIRSTRIP MATTING FOR PORT STANLEY AIRPORT ONCE IT HAS BEEN RECAPTURED, CONVERSION OF THE SS STENA INSPECTOR FOR USE AS A REPAIR SHIP IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, SHRIKE MISSILES FOR USE BY THE VULCANS, HELICOPTER ENGINES, SUBMARINE DETECTION DEVICES FOR USE BY THE SEA KING HELICOPTERS, TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ON A LARGE SCALE FOR ASCENSION ISLAND FOR OUR FORCES, STINGER GROUND TO AIR MISSILES (ALREADY USED SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT), AS WELL AS THE USUAL ARRAY OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. MANY OF THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN PROCURED AT EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE (OFTEN 24 HOURS) AND FLOWN IMMEDIATELY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OR ASCENSION ISLAND. BOTH HAIG AND WEINBERGER HAVE TAKEN THE CLOSEST INTEREST IN THE PROCESSING OF THESE REQUESTS, WITH WEINBERGER INTERVENING TO ENSURE THAT



THE LARGER AND MORE DIFFICULT ITEMS WERE MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY AT WHATEVER THE COST TO U S FORCES' REQUIREMENTS. THERE HAS BEEN THE SAME PATTERN OF HEPP WITH THE NUMEROUS REQUESTS WE HAVE PROCESSED FOR URGENT TECHNICAL ADVICE IN RELATION TO U S SUPPLIED WEAPONRY AND THEIR MATTERS.

6. AS YOU KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION IS ANXIOUS THAT THE DETAILS OF THE HELP THEY HAVE GIVEN SHOULD NOT OFFICIALLY BE MADE PUBLIC, DESPITE THE MANY LEAKS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE. BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR ASSISTANCE WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HAIG. THEY CERTAINLY FEEL THAT IN TERMS OF PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND IN WAYS THAT REALLY MATTER THEY HAVE, DONE, AS THEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO, A VERY GREAT DEAL TO ASSIST US.

7. F C O PLEASE PASS TO NO. 10 DOWNING ST.

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