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TO PRIORITY FCO

TEL NO 234 OF 25 MARCH 1985

INFO PRIORITY BUENOS AIRES PORT STANLEY WASHINGTON  
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WASHINGTON TELNO 1018 (NOT TO BRASILIA):

VISIT OF PRESIDENT ALFONISIN

1. PRESIDENT ALFONISIN CAME ON TO NEW YORK AFTER WASHINGTON. HE HAD 45 MINUTES WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON 22 MARCH, 23 OF WHICH WERE, ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, DEVOTED TO THE FALKLANDS.

2. DE SOTO HAS ASSURED US THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS HIMSELF INTENT ON GIVING ME AN ACCOUNT OF HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ALFONISIN. IN THE MEANWHILE, DE SOTO HAS TOLD US THAT:

- A) THE SECRETARY GENERAL GAVE ALFONISIN AN ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN JANUARY (IN WHICH CONTEXT ALFONISIN INSISTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS MISTAKEN IN HER ASSESSMENT OF ARGENTINA'S PURCHASES OF NEW MILITARY HARDWARE)
- B) ALFONISIN "VERY MUCH INSISTED" THAT THE ARGENTINES WANTED A DIALOGUE WITH THE UK WITH AN OPEN AGENDA AND THAT NOT TO ACCEPT THIS COULD ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF INTRANSIGENCE
- C) ALFONISIN HAD STRESSED THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE COULD NOT BE SEPARATED.

3. PRESIDENT ALFONISIN MADE POINT C) AT A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTED THAT "WHAT I HOPE FOR IS THAT A DIALOGUE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, NOT WITH ME BUT BETWEEN THEM - AND THAT IS WHAT I AM TRYING TO DO".

THOMSON

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