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FM MEXICO CITY 192300Z JAN 83  
TO ROUTINE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 72 OF 19 JANUARY  
INFO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,

YOUR TELNO GUIDANCE 5: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS/  
MEXICAN REACTIONS.

1. THE MEXICAN PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE AND ON THE WHOLE OBJECTIVE COVERAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, WITH NO ATTEMPT TO DISGUISE THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION ACCORDED TO HER BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS. REACTION IN ARGENTINA AND ELSEWHERE HAVE ALSO BEEN FULLY REPORTED. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REMARK ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER BEING THE BEST MAN IN ENGLAND WAS GIVEN MUCH PROMINENCE.
2. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS DENOUNCING THE VISIT IN LANGUAGE WHICH COULD ALMOST HAVE BEEN USED BY AN ARGENTINE SPOKESMAN. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES WAS ALSO REPORTED AS HAVING CRITICISED THE VISIT. BUT BOTH THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE KEPT UNDER ONLY LOOSE CONTROL FROM MEXICO CITY AND THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ITSELF REMAINED SILENT.
3. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS GENERALLY BEEN MILDLY DISAPPROVING BUT NOT INDIGNANT. THE ONLY REALLY SOUR NOTE WAS STRUCK IN THE LEFT WING 'UNO MAS UNO' WHICH DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS A CALCULATED GESTURE OF ARROGANCE AND CONTEMPT FOR WORLD OPINION. IT CLAIMED THAT AT A TIME WHEN BRITISH DIPLOMACY WAS BEING REPUDIATED THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE, THE QUEEN'S IMPENDING VISIT TO MEXICO WAS AROUSING SCANT ENTHUSIASM. BUT THIS LINE IS UNTYPICAL AND INDEED DEMONSTRABLY FALSE. THE MEXICAN PRESS AND TELEVISION HAVE GENERALLY BEEN ENTIRELY POSITIVE AND WELCOMING OVER THE QUEEN'S VISIT, WITH A NUMBER OF SPECIAL FEATURES ALREADY APPEARING ON THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY.

MORRIS

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