

Argentina

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UNCLASSIFIED  
FM UKMIS NEW YORK 012345Z SEP 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 770 OF 1 SEPTEMBER  
INFO SAVING OSLO, CANBERRA, SUVA, PORT OF SPAIN, FREETOWN, PORT  
STANLEY, WASHINGTON

MIPT: COMMITTEE OF 24: FALKLANDS DEBATE

1. FOLLOWING IS MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS ON 1 SEPTEMBER.

2. THE SESSION OPENED WITH VENEZUELA INTRODUCING THEIR DRAFT RESOLUTION AND CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE VOTE. CHILE INTERVENED TO PROTEST THAT NOT ALL DELEGATIONS WERE PRESENT. THE CHAIRMAN RULED THAT THE VOTE BE POSTPONED UNTIL LATER IN THE MORNING.

3. CHEEK MADE A FURTHER STATEMENT, COMMENTING ON ROSEE'S INTERVENTION YESTERDAY. HE SAID THERE WAS NO WISH ON THE PART OF THE FRG TO PREVENT PRO-ARGENTINE VIEWS BEING HEARD IN THE ISLANDS: HE WOULD GLADLY CIRCULATE COPIES OF ROSEE'S STATEMENT ON HIS RETURN. ON THE LACK OF PROSPECTS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, HE SAID HE HIMSELF WAS THE SON OF A SHEPHERD AND HAD RISEN TO A POSITION OF SOME PROMINENCE. HE DENIED THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION WERE FIC OR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

4. IN RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE ARGENTINE I SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY THE DIFFERENCE IN THE ARGENTINE AND UK STATEMENTS. ARGENTINA HAD BEEN CONCERNED WITH LEGAL QUESTIONS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: WE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 FOR NON-SELF GOVERNING PEOPLES. I REPEATED THAT IT WAS ARGENTINA WHICH HAD INVADED THE FALKLANDS AFTER A FRUITFUL SESSION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR. NOTHING COULD CHANGE THAT. ARGENTINA HAD QUITE SIMPLY CUT SHORT NEGOTIATIONS. T HAD STRUCK ME AS ODD THAT THE ACCUSATIONS OF MILITARISM HAD COME FROM ARGENTINA. IT WAS PALPABLY RIDICULOUS TO SPEAK OF A NATO BASE IN THE ISLANDS. NATO'S OPERATIONS WERE CONFINED TO THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE. I DEPLORED THIS ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE AN EAST-WEST DIMENSION INTO THE DISPUTE. THIS ONLY EXACERBATED THE PROBLEM. AS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS THIS CAME POORLY FROM A GOVERNMENT THAT HAD NOT RATIFIED THE TREATY OF TLAELOCO. I REBUTTED THE SUGGESTION THAT SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SANDWICH ISLANDS WERE IN ANY WAY PART OF THE DISPUTE. I ASKED WHETHER THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WAS INALIENABLE. DID THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION? WAS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS A NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY? DID THE COMMITTEE HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION? CLEARLY, THE ANSWER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS WAS YES.

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5. THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE EXERCISING HIS RIGHT OF REPLY SAID THAT THE ARGENTINE POSITION WAS SUPPORTED BY CONCRETE FACTS RATHER THAN PERSONAL OPINIONS: IT WAS NOT MERELY HIS OPINION THAT A MILITARY BASE EXISTED ON THE FALKLANDS IT WAS INCONTESTABLE. SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD EMPHASISED ON THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE FALKLANDS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. AS FOR CLAIMING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE ISLANDERS, THIS DID NOT STAND UP TO ANALYSIS. MY STATEMENT HAD EVADED TWO ASPECTS: THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD VIOLATED CHARTER OBLIGATIONS BY REFUSING TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE BY PEACEFUL MEANS (SIC): AND WE HAD REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SEVERAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON THE FALKLANDS. OUR POLICIES ENDANGERED PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA. THE COMMITTEE OF 24 WAS FULLY COMPETENT TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION WHICH WAS CLEARLY ONE OF DECOLONISATION. BRITISH EFFORTS TO 'TRAMPLE UNDERFOOT' EFFORTS AIMED AT DECOLONISATION WOULD NOT SUCCEED.

6. FIJI SAID THAT THEY HAD EXPLAINED THEIR POSITION ON THE FALKLANDS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR. THEY FAVOURED NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THEY ACCEPTED THAT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WERE A NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY UNDER ARTICLE 73 AND RESOLUTION 1514. THEY RECOGNIZED INTERESTS OF THE INHABITANTS WERE PARAMOUNT. THEY REGRETTED THAT THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THE VENEZUELAN DRAFT RESOLUTION DID NOT COVER THIS POINT ADEQUATELY. THE DRAFT ALSO TALKED ONLY OF A SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE AND THERE WAS NOT EXPLICIT GUARANTEES THAT THE RIGHTS AND WISHES OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS WOULD BE RESPECTED. THEY WOULD ABSTAIN.

7. AUSTRALIA SAID THEY OPPOSED ANY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS BY MILITARY MEANS. THEY CONDEMNED LAST YEAR'S INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS. THEY SUPPORTED THE RIGHT OF THE ISLANDERS TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. THEY CONSIDERED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION DEFICIENT IN THAT IT SKIRTED OVER THE EVENTS OF 1982 AND CONTAINED EXTREMELY VAGUE LANGUAGE CONCERNING THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS. THEY REGRETTED THAT THE CLIMATE FOR A RESUMPTION OF CONTACTS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UK WAS UNFAVOURABLE. BUT THEY NEVERTHE- LESS HOPED THAT SUCH CONTACTS COULD BE RESUMED IN TIME. THEY WOULD ALSO ABSTAIN.

8. NORWAY SPOKE ON SIMILAR LINES. THEY SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. THEY REGRETTED ARGENTINA RESORT TO FORCE LAST YEAR. ONE COULD NOT PROCEED AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE RESOLUTION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ISLANDERS. BUT IT WAS WRONG TO DESCRIBE THE DISPUTE AS ONE OF SOVEREIGNTY ALONE. THEY CONSIDERED THERE WAS SCOPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS EG TRADE AND FINANCE. THEY HOPED THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN THESE AREAS MIGHT LEAD TO A RESUMPTION OF FULL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THEY TOO WOULD ABSTAIN.



9. IVORY COAST SAID THAT LAST YEAR'S CONFLICT WAS A "PAINFUL ILLUSTRATION OF ALL THAT INCOMPREHENSION AND INTOLERANCE" CAN PRODUCE. IT HAD BEEN A POINTLESS CONFLICT. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. FOR THE IVORY COAST THE NOTION OF DIALOGUE WAS A "RELIGION". A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF A DISPUTE THROUGH NEGOTIATION WAS OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE SO THEY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOUR. HOWEVER THEY WERE AWARE OF THE INADEQUACIES OF THE TEXT. IN THEIR VIEW THE FALKLANDS WAS A NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY WHICH HAD A POPULATION AND WAS ENTITLED TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THOSE WHO ARGUED OTHERWISE SHOULD LOGICALLY SEEK TO TRANSFER THE ITEM TO A DIFFERENT FORUM.

10. THE VOTE WAS THEN CALLED. SPEAKING IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE TANZANIA SAID SHE SUPPORTED THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. THEY HOPED THAT UK AND ARGENTINA WOULD SOON NORMALISE RELATIONS. CHINA SAID THAT ALMOST A YEAR HAD PASSED SINCE RESOLUTION 37/9 HAD CALLED FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATION. THE NAM SUMMIT IN DELHI HAD SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS. CHINA SUPPORTED THIS. THEY REGRETTED THAT DESPITE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT YET STARTED. MALI SAID THEIR DELEGATION HAD VOTED IN FAVOUR OF RESOLUTION 37/9. THEY CONSIDERED THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES FUNDAMENTAL. THEY CALLED FOR AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

11. ARGENTINA SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR VOTING FOR THE RESOLUTION. THE VOTE HAD BEEN AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN GA RESOLUTION 37/9.

12. I INTERVENED AGAIN TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE OUTCOME. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROBABLY FELT IN THEIR HEARTS THAT THEY HAD DONE LESS THAN THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE. SOME EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE HAD COMPLETELY NEGLECTED THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE: SOME HAD CALLED FOR A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS FORGETTING THAT IT WAS ARGENTINA WHICH HAD BROKEN THEM OFF IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT HAD EVEN BEEN SUGGESTED THAT WE FAVOURED A MILITARY SOLUTION: I POINTED OUT THAT 4,000 TROOPS ON THE ISLANDS WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE 10,000 ARGENTINE TROOPS THAT HAD INVADED LAST YEAR.



13. CUBA COMPLETED THE DAY'S PROCEEDINGS WITH A SILLY INTERVENTION:  
I HAD SAID THEIR POINT OF ORDER YESTERDAY WAS THE LONGEST I HAD  
HEARD. BUT OUR COLONISATION OF THE ISLANDS HAD GONE ON FAR LONGER  
THAN THAT AND WAS OF MUCH GREATER SIGNIFICANCE. OUR COMPLAINTS  
ABOUT THE RESOLUTION WERE UNJUSTIFIED. WE WOULD DO WELL TO CONVEY  
TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THEY SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S POSITION.  
THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLANDS ISLANDS WAS 'ANACHRONISTIC'.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES EXCEPT WASHINGTON

THOMSON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

LIMITED

FID

UND

SAM D

NEWS. D.

ECD (E)

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR. RIFKIND

PS/PUS

SIR. J. BULLARD

SIR. J. LEAHY

MR. WRIGHT

MR. GIFFARD

MR. URE

MR. ADAMS