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GRS 564
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FM F C O 081500Z NOV 83
TO FLASH PARIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 564 OF 8 NOVEMBER.

UNP 04018		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
- 9 NOV 1983		
DESK OFFICER		REC'D
DEB	PA	Action Taken
		SR 9/11

574 - MY TELNO 323 TO ROME:

FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND.

BEGINS: WHEN YOU WERE HERE ON 20/21 OCTOBER WE HAD A WORD ABOUT THE DEBATE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. YOU WERE GOOD ENOUGH THEN TO GIVE ME AN ASSURANCE THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AS CURRENTLY CIRCULATED BY ARGENTINA. SINCE THEN I HAVE OF COURSE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE WHICH YOU CONVEYED TO ME AT THE WEEKEND. I WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR GETTING IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN ON THIS MATTER, AND FOR YOUR WISH TO KNOW MY PERSONAL ATTITUDE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VOTING INTENTIONS OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES. WHAT SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG SAID THE MONSIEUR ATTALI, SPEAKING ON MY INSTRUCTIONS AFTER HE HAD TRANSMITTED YOUR MESSAGE TO ME, WILL HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO YOU. NONETHELESS, WITH THE VOTE DUE ON 10 NOVEMBER, I THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE, TO UNDERLINE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US OF THE POSITION TO BE ADOPTED BY FRANCE, WHOSE SUPPORT AT THE OUTSET OF AND THROUGHOUT THE CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC I REMEMBER WITH DEEP GRATITUDE.

OUR ATTITUDE TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS NOT AFFECTED BY SMALL DETAILS: ITS FUNDAMENTAL UNACCEPTABILITY TO US WOULD NOT BE DIMINISHED BY DRAFTING CHANGES SUCH AS (FOR EXAMPLE) THE EXCISE OF THE REFERENCE TO 'A COLONIAL SITUATION'. WHAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT IS ARGENTINA'S EVIDENT DETERMINATION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CALLED FOR IN THE DRAFT SHOULD HAVE ONLY ONE POSSIBL

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OUTCOME: THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS TO ARGENTIN
REGARDLESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH I KNOW
FRANCE ALWAYS UPHOLDS AND WHICH APPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
FALKLANDS AS MUCH AS TO ANYONE ELSE. FRANCE WILL SURELY
UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS WE FACE.

WE ALL WELCOME THE SUCCESSFUL HOLDING OF ELECTIONS IN
ARGENTINA ON 30 OCTOBER. WE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO
DEVELOP A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA AND WILL BE
HOPING FOR A BETTER RESPONSE FROM THE NEW GORNMENT THAN WE HAD
FROM THE MILITARY. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE OF EUROPEAN
PARTNERS TO MAKE A GESTURE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO THE
EMERGING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA. BUT THERE ARE MANY
WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE DONE. IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS OR AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM.

A SWITCH TO A POSITIVE VOTE BY A COUNTRY AS IMPORTANT AS
FRANCE WOULD SEND THE WRONG SIGNAL TO THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT.
IT WOULD SUGGEST TO THEM THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW
THE PRESENT STERILE COURSE AND THAT WE COULD EVENTUALLY BE
BROUGHT TO NEGOTIATE THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY AGAINST THE
WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS. THIS CAN ONLY SERVE TO MAINTAIN THE
PRESENT TENSION. I NEED HARDLY TELL YOU WITH WHAT DISMAY A
POSITIVE VOTE BY SO CLOSE A PARTNER AND ALLY AS FRANCE WOULD BE
RECEIVED IN THIS COUNTRY. IT WOULD ALSO SEND THE WRONG SIGNAL
TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS: WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED THAT, GIVEN SUCH A
LEAD BY FRANCE, OTHERS NOW MINDED TO ABSTAIN WOULD BE EMBOLDENED
TO FOLLOW FRANCE'S EXAMPLE. WE ARE NOT ASKING YOU TO VOTE WITH
US AND DIRECTLY OPPOSITE TO ARGENTINA, BUT I DO ASK YOU MOST
EARNESTLY NOT TO VOTE WITH ARGENTINA AND DIRECTLY OPPOSITE TO
THE UNITED KINGDOM. ENDS

HOWE

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