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 TO IMMEDIATE ROME
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 324 OF 8 NOVEMBER

574

MIPT: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO CRAXI.
 BEGINS:

WHEN YOU WERE HERE ON 16 SEPTEMBER WE HAD A WORD ABOUT THE DEBATE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND SIGNOR ANDREOTTI HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN THE MEANWHILE, BUT WITH THE VOTE DUE ON 10 NOVEMBER, I THOUGHT I SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO REMIND YOU PERSONALLY OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US OF THE POSITION TO BE ADOPTED BY ITALY.

SIGNOR ANDREOTTI HAS GIVEN US AN ASSURANCE THAT ITALY WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AS CURRENTLY CIRCULATED BY ARGENTINA. BUT I AM AWARE THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SOME SMALL CHANGES TO THE DRAFT.

I AM SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT OUR ATTITUDE TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS NOT AFFECTED BY SMALL DETAILS. WHAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT IS ARGENTINA'S EVIDENT DETERMINATION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CALLED FOR IN THE DRAFT SHOULD HAVE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE OUTCOME: THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS TO ARGENTINA, REGARDLESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH APPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLANDS AS MUCH AS TO ANYONE ELSE. 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 GOVERNMENT 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

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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 ITALY 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 ITALY WOULD BE RECEIVED IN THIS COUNTRY. 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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