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FM WASHINGTON 062012Z DEC 83  
TO PRIORITY F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3678 OF 6 DECEMBER.

ARGENTINA

1. I CALLED ON VICE PRESIDENT BUSH THIS MORNING TO GO OVER THE GROUND PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES FOR THE INAUGURATION OF ALFONSIN.
2. THE CALL PROVED TIMELY IN THAT BUSH WAS CLEARLY CONCERNED THAT HIS PURPOSE IN ATTENDING THE INAUGURATION COULD GIVE RISE TO MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE U.K. HE SAID HIS AIM WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA, AND TO SEE WHETHER U.S. RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA COULD BE ESTABLISHED ON A BETTER FOOTING UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HE REALISED THAT WITH ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS PASSING THROUGH A DELICATE PHASE HIS VISIT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN THAT THE U.S. WAS TILTING AWAY FROM THE U.K. AND TOWARDS ARGENTINA. HE WANTED TO ASSURE US THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION WHATSOEVER OF THIS BEING THE CASE. HE SAID HE HAD IT IN MIND TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO REASSURE HER.
3. I ASSURED HIM THAT THERE WAS NO DANGER OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT MISUNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, AND I EXPLAINED TO HIM OUR ATTITUDE TO THE ALFONSIN GOVERNMENT. I SAID THAT WE WELCOMED THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY TO ARGENTINA, AS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR BY THE PRIME MINISTER. WE WANTED TO RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. WE WERE READY TO GO AS FAR AND AS FAST AS THE ALFONSIN GOVERNMENT. WE HAD DEMONSTRATED OUR GOOD WILL BY JOINING IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL RESCUE OPERATIONS. WHAT CONCERNED US HOWEVER WAS THAT SO FAR THE ALFONSIN GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN NO SIGN OF BEING READY TO DECLARE AN END TO HOSTILITIES. AS A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IT OUGHT TO BE READY TO DECLARE THAT IT WOULD NOT SEEK TO GOVERN THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS AGAINST THEIR WISHES OR PROSECUTE ITS CLAIM TO THE ISLANDS BY FORCE. WE WERE NOT, MOREOVER, PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY: THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ARGENTINA GETTING THROUGH NEGOTIATION WHAT IT HAD FAILED TO GET BY FORCE: THIS WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.K. OR BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS THEMSELVES.
4. BUSH LISTENED CAREFULLY TO ALL THIS, AND SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK WE WERE APART ON ANY OF IT.

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5. I MENTIONED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SENT THE PRESIDENT A MESSAGE ON CERTIFICATION, AND OUTLINED THE ESSENTIAL POINTS IN ATHENS TELNO 3 TO WASHINGTON OF 6 DECEMBER.

6. BUSH INVITED ME TO CALL AGAIN ON HIS RETURN FROM BUENOS AIRES. I INTEND TO DO SO.

BRAITHWAITE

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

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