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FM WASHINGTON 302357Z AUG 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2889 OF 30 AUGUST
INFO UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TEL NO 2875: FALKLANDS

1. I SPOKE TO BOSWORTH (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT) ABOUT THE THREATENED UN RESOLUTION ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I REMINDED HIM OF ENDERS' ASSURANCE TO MR ONSLOW THAT THE US WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS OR PREJUDGED THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY. I RUBBED IN THE POINT MR ONSLOW HAD MADE THAT THE UK WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY REFERENCE TO THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE OR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS, AND ASKED BOSWORTH IF IN THE INTERESTS OF DEESCALATION THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO TRY TO DISSUADE THE ARGENTINES FROM PUSHING ANY RESOLUTION.

2. BOSWORTH SAID THAT THE US FULLY APPRECIATED OUR VIEWS. HE REPEATED ENDERS' ASSURANCES AND SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WISHED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US AS MATTERS DEVELOPED IN NEW YORK. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE FOR THE ARGENTINIANS TO BACK OFF FROM ITS CLAIMS TO SOVERIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS. TO DO SO WOULD RISK THE IMMEDIATE DOWNFALL OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. IT WAS RIVEN WITH INTER-SERVICE AND SERVICE-GOVERNMENT SQUABBLES AS WELL AS SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES OF AN ELECTION IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS. THE ONE POINT ON WHICH THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN ARGENTINA WAS ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. BOSWORTH WAS CONFIDENT THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY THE AMERICANS TO DISSUADE ARGENTINA FROM PRESSING AHEAD WITH A RESOLUTION IN THE UN WOULD ACTUALLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

THOMAS

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

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