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FM FCO 091530Z SEPT 82  
TO IMMEDIATE ABIDJAN  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 129 OF 9 SEPTEMBER  
AND TO CERTAIN OTHER MISSIONS  
FALKLANDS ISLANDS AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. WE ANTICIPATE A DIFFICULT DEBATE ON THE FALKLANDS AT THIS YEAR'S GA AND WE SHALL BE LOOKING TO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO SHOW THEIR UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR POSITION AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOUR. DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND WILL CONTINUE IN THE TEN AND WITH THE AMERICANS AND MESSAGES HAVE GONE TO FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THESE COUNTRIES. THIS TELEGRAM PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR POSTS IN OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND A LINE TO TAKE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. POSTS SHOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITIES TO PUT OVER OUR VIEWS TO COUNTERACT THE ARGENTINE CAMPAIGN REFERRED TO BELOW. MULTIPLY ACCREDITED POSTS SHOULD TAKE ACTION IN THEIR OTHER COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO OPPORTUNITY. WASHINGTON, MADRID, EC POSTS AND POSTS IN LATIN AMERICA SHOULD REGARD THIS TELEGRAM AS BEING FOR INFORMATION ONLY. IT IS LIKELY THAT HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES WILL BE SENT LATER, FIRSTLY TO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) BEFORE A MEETING OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NAM WHICH WE EXPECT TO TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND WHERE THERE WILL BE A DANGER OF A FURTHER PRO-ARGENTINE TEXT BEING ADOPTED ON THE FALKLANDS, AND, LATER, TO A WIDER SELECTION OF GOVERNMENTS IN TIME FOR THE FALKLANDS DEBATE AND THE VOTE.

2. AT MEXICAN INITIATIVE ALL THE SPANISH-SPEAKING LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND BRAZIL HAVE PROPOSED THE INCLUSION OF A NEW ITEM ON THE FALKLANDS IN THE AGENDA OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ARGENTINA IS CIRCULATING A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH RECALLS NAM PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH SUPPORT ARGENTINE

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SOVEREIGNTY AND DENY THE ISLANDERS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND CALLS ON BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS TO FIND AN EARLY PEACEFUL SOLUTION TAKING ACCOUNT OF PREVIOUS GA RESOLUTIONS (WHICH WE DID NOT SUPPORT) AND NAM PRONOUNCEMENTS. IT CALLS ALSO FOR A RENEWAL OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S GOOD OFFICES MISSION AND REQUESTS HIM TO REPORT BACK TO THE GA AT ITS 1983 SESSION. (THE DRAFT RESOLUTION INEVITABLY FAILS TO MENTION THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-USE OF FORCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION.)

3. ARGENTINA HAS SENT OFFICIAL MISSIONS TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD TO CANVASS SUPPORT FOR THIS APPROACH. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE INITIALLY INCLINED TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS. SOME COUNTRIES ARE ALSO CONSIDERING WAYS IN WHICH THE TEXT COULD BE MADE LESS OBJECTIONABLE TO US. WE DO NOT WELCOME THIS. WE SHALL VOTE AGAINST ANY DRAFT THAT CALLS ON US TO NEGOTIATE AND HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF DISCOURAGING OTHERS FROM SUPPORTING IT IF THE OTHER OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES REMAIN.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE DEBATE PROPOSED BY MEXICO, WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE EITHER IN PLENARY OR THE FOURTH COMMITTEE, THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSION IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE WHICH WILL HAVE BEFORE IT A REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE OF 24. THIS COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE FALKLANDS ON 19/20 AUGUST AND ADOPTED A PURELY PROCEDURAL DECISION KEEPING THE QUESTION UNDER REVIEW.

LINE TO TAKE

5. WE WILL NOT OPPOSE DISCUSSION OF THE FALKLANDS ITEM AT THE GA AS PROPOSED BY THE LATIN AMERICANS. WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE AND SHALL HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO SAY.

6. THE UK WILL HOWEVER FIRMLY OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTION CALLING ON US TO NEGOTIATE WITH ARGENTINA. PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT TOLERATE IT. NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN TRAIN WHEN ARGENTINA INVADED. THEREAFTER SHE DEFIED A MANDATORY SECURITY COUNCIL DEMAND (RESOLUTION 502) TO WITHDRAW, AND HAS STILL REFUSED FORMALLY TO DECLARE THAT HOSTILITIES ARE AT AN END. THE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN COSTS TO BRITAIN OF

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REOCCUPATION HAVE BEEN HIGH. THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS, SUCH AS INDISCRIMINATELY SCATTERED ARGENTINE MINES, WILL LONG REMAIN WITH THE ISLANDERS. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT ARGENTINA HAS ALWAYS USED NEGOTIATIONS TO PURSUE THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY, NO-ONE SHOULD THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA OFFER A REALISTIC WAY AHEAD FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE TRUST THIS POSITION WILL BE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD BY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC SINCE THE INVASION.

7. THE MEXICAN/ARGENTINE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS DEFECTIVE IN OTHER RESPECTS TOO. THE REFERENCES TO PREVIOUS GA RESOLUTIONS (GUIDANCE TELNO 93) AND NAM PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE UNWELCOME. BUT EVEN IF THEY WERE REMOVED AND THE SUGGESTION OF A TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ABANDONED WE WOULD STILL VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED ON US TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ARGENTINES AND FAILED TO ACCORD THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS.

8. WE RELY ON OUR FRIENDS NOT TO SUPPORT SUCH A RESOLUTION. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS COULD CONFIRM THEIR POSITION ON FUNDAMENTAL UN CHARTER PRINCIPLES SUCH AS THE NON-USE OF FORCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION IN THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS DURING THE FALKLANDS DEBATE.

9. IN 1976 THE LAST OCCASION WHEN THE GA DEBATED A RESOLUTION ON THE FALKLANDS, 32 COUNTRIES ABSTAINED (WE VOTED AGAINST), INCLUDING THE REST OF THE NINE, THE NORDICS, AUSTRIA AND PORTUGAL, 15 COMMONWEALTH, JAPAN, ZAIRE AND THE UNITED STATES. AFTER THE EVENTS OF THIS YEAR WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THESE OR OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS COULD SUPPORT AN ARGENTINE RESOLUTION.

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