

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKDEL NATO 140800Z SEP 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 360 OF 14 SEPTEMBER
INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON
INFO SAVING ROME, BONN, MADRID, OSLO.

WASHINGTON TELNO 3014: FALKLANDS - UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. AT YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSION AT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE REINFORCED BY UN EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS ON PROSPECTS FOR THE UNGA, WE EXPLAINED THE REASONS THAT WOULD COMPEL US TO VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION AT THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT INCLUDED A CALL ON US TO NEGOTIATE WITH ARGENTINA. WE REMINDED ALLIED THAT MOST OF THEM HAD ABSTAINED ON AN ARGENTINE-DRAFTED GA RESOLUTION IN 1976, ADDING THAT AFTER THE EVENTS OF THIS YEAR WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND FREINDLY GOVERNMENTS WHO NOW SUPPORTED A RESOLUTION WHICH WAS COUCHED IN SIMILAR TERMS, WHICH WAS SILENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION OR WHICH FAILED TO CONDEMN ARGENTINA'S ILLEGAL USE OF FORCE.
2. ONLY FIVE OTHER DELEGATIONS SPOKE:
 - A. ITALY REFERRED TO COLOMBO'S VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA AND REPORTED ON THE TWO VISITS TO ROME BY LISTRE, ARGENTINE POLITICAL DIRECTOR. ARGENTINE IDEAS ON THE LANGUAGE OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION SEEMED TO HAVE EVOLVED IN THE COURSE OF HIS EUROPEAN TOUR. IT NOW SEEMED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A TEXT THAT DID NOT REFER TO THE NON-ALIGNED POSITION ON THEIR SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM. IT WAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CLEAR THAT ARGENTINA WOULD WANT A REFERENCE TO THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATION'S. THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES APPRECIATED THE UK'S POSITION. THE UK'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS FACED SOMETHING OF A QUANDARY. ITALY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE IDEA OF ARRANGING FOR A PARAGRAPH VOTE TO BE TAKEN ON ANY DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT FINALLY EMERGED WITH A VIEW TO IT THEN BEING ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.
 - B. THE SPANIARD CONFIRMED THAT THE ARGENTINES SEEMED READY TO ELIMINATE FROM THE DRAFT RESOLUTION THE REFERENCES TO NON-ALIGNED DOCTRINE WHICH MIGHT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE EUROPEANS. HIS AUTHORITIES HAD CONDEMNED ARGENTINA'S USE OF FORCE BUT WOULD FAVOUR A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATION AND WOULD, AS IN THE PAST, VOTE FOR IT. SPAIN SAW MERIT IN THE IDEA OF A PARAGRAPH VOTE.
 - C. THE GERMANS SAID THAT LISTRE HAD VISITED BONN. THERE TOO HE HAD GIVEN THE IMPRESSION OF BEING WILLING TO ADJUST THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EUROPEANS TO SUPPORT IT, THOUGH HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP

CONFIDENTIAL

/MIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

MIGHT NEED TO BE CONSULTED FIRST IF THE FAMILIAR REFERENCES TO NAM SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA'S CASE WERE TO BE DROPPED. LISTRE HAD CLAIMED THAT ARGENTINA APPRECIATED THE UK'S INABILITY TO NEGOTIATE AT ONCE. HE HAD, HOWEVER, TRIED TO ARGUE THAT AN ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO A PROGRESS OF DEMOCRATISATION, NEEDED SOME REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS SOON, NOT LEAST SO THAT ANTI-SOVIET FORCES IN ARGENTINA COULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT ONE OF ARGENTINE/WESTERN CONFRONTATION. THE FRG HAD NATURALLY TOLD THE ARGENTINES THAT THEY FELT OBLIGED TO CONDEMN THE USE OF FORCE, PARTICULARLY WHEN DIRECTED AGAINST A CLOSE ALLY. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE DIFFICULT WHEN THE MATTER CAME BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY FOR GERMANY TO REJECT ENTIRELY ANY IDEA OF NEGOTIATION, ALTHOUGH THERE SHOULD BE NO ATTEMPT TO PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY. GERMANY'S FINAL POSITION WOULD DEPEND ON THE DETAILED TEXT THAT EMERGED. HAD THE UK CONSIDERED FLOATING A TEXT OF THEIR OWN? WE REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT DISMISS THIS IDEA. THE SORT OF LANGUAGE HOWEVER, WHICH WE WOULD WISH TO INCLUDE IN A TEXT (NON-USE OF FORCE, SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE ISLANDERS, NO NEGOTIATIONS) WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE SUCH AS TO ATTRACT THE SUPPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICANS.

D. THE AMERICANS (WHO IN THE LIGHT OF EXCHANGES IN WASHINGTON REPORTED IN TUR HAD MADE CONTACT WITH US BEFORE THE MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE LINE THEY WOULD ADOPT) SAID THAT THEIR POSITION ON ANY TEXT THAT MIGHT EMERGE WAS ENTIRELY RESERVED. THE US WAS NOT PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN TRYING TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE OR ENGAGING IN SPECULATION ON WHAT SORT OF LANGUAGE WOULD RUN. AT THIS STAGE ALL THAT COULD BE SAID ABOUT THE US POSITION WAS THAT THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT A RESOLUTION WHICH PREJUDGED SOVEREIGNTY OR WHICH SET DEADLINES ON NEGOTIATIONS. MEANWHILE THE US WOULD NOT OPPOSE INSCRIPTION ON THE UNGA AGENDA.

E. THE NORWEGIANS REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAD MADE IN LAST MONTH'S MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN NEW YORK. NORWAY HAD TAKEN NO FINAL DECISION ON VOTING AT UNGA, BUT HER GENERAL ATTITUDE WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE NEED TO RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

FCO PASS SAVING ADDRESSES

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

GRAHAM

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

FAKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO

FID

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FAKLAND ISLANDS

**THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED**

-2-
CONFIDENTIAL