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FM FCO 201010Z OCTOBER 82

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 382 OF 20 OCTOBER,

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, OTTAWA, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON

YOUR TELNOS 1637 - 1640: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. I HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR PROPOSAL WITH CARE. BUT YOUR AMENDMENT FALLS SOME WAY SHORT OF MEETING MY CONCERNS. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN IN PROMOTING IT AS WE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE PRESSED TO DO AND IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY STILL BE NECESSARY FOR US TO VOTE AGAINST THE DRAFT RESOLUTION EVEN IF AMENDED AS YOU ENVISAGE.
2. I AM NOT SURE ARTICLE 73 IS AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE OBLIGATION 'TO TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLES' IS TOO WEAK OF ITSELF. 'PARAMOUNT INTERESTS' IS ALSO INSUFFICIENT: THE ARGENTINES THEMSELVES HAVE LONG ACCEPTED REFERENCES TO THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE 'INTERESTS' OF THE ISLANDERS, WHILE DENYING ANY PLACE FOR THEIR WISHES. BUT IN ANY CASE WE CANNOT EXPECT THAT MANY DELEGATIONS WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT ARTICLE 73 WAS A SUITABLE 'FRAMEWORK' FOR THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT. WE COULD NOT RULE OUT THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT SUCCEED WITH A SUB-AMENDMENT REMOVING THE FINAL PHRASE OF YOUR AMENDMENT.
3. YOUR PHRASE 'THE SEARCH ... FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THEIR DIFFERENCES' IS VERY CLOSE TO NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD GIVE RISE TO CONCERN HERE AND IN THE ISLANDS ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS. THE REFERENCE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLANDERS DOES NOT GIVE THEM A VETO. THE ARGENTINES HAVE ACCEPTED ISLANDER PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS TALKS (AS PART OF THE BRITISH

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DELEGATION) AND I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT THE PASSAGE OF YOUR AMENDMENT WOULD FORCE THEM TO VOTE AGAINST OR ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE, IF YOUR FINAL PHRASE HAD DISAPPEARED. THE ARGENTINES WOULD BE HELPED BY THE SECOND AND THIRD PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS. THESE DO NOT MERELY CHARACTERISE THE SITUATION AS A COLONIAL ONE BUT STATE THAT COLONIAL SITUATIONS ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH PEACE AND THAT THE COLONIAL STATUS OF THE FALKLANDS MUST BE ENDED.

4. I CONCLUDE THAT WE MUST ABANDON THE IDEA OF AMENDING THE ARGENTINE DRAFT. THERE IS NO WAY OF CONTROLLING THE EXERCISE ONCE THE AMENDMENT IS TABLED AND IT COULD EASILY BACKFIRE. WE CAN ONLY MAXIMISE OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE ABSTENTIONS AND NEGATIVE VOTES. WE WILL MAKE A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO DENY THE ARGENTINES THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN VOTES. IF WE SUCCEED IN THAT, AND IF A REASONABLE NUMBER OF OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ALSO ABSTAIN, I SHALL NOT ATTACH MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ARGENTINE 'VICTORY'.

5. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS.

PYM

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