

GRS 220  
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*Argentina*

FM PARIS 221804Z OCT 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELGRAM NUMBER 1004 OF 22 OCT 82  
INFO PRIORITY BONN ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG  
ROME THE HAGUE UKMIS NEW YORK  
INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS

*mf*

YOUR TELNO 564: FALKLANDS AT THE UN

1. I WENT OVER THE GROUND THIS EVENING WITH GUTMANN, SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE QUAI. I TOOK HIM THROUGH THE OBJECTIONABLE ELEMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE TEXT, STRESSED THE PARALLEL BETWEEN THE FALKLANDS AND FRENCH OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS AND THE LIKELY EFFECT THAT THE FRENCH VOTE WOULD HAVE ON WAIVERERS IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE, AND ENDED BY SAYING THAT A FRENCH VOTE AGAINST BRITAIN (ACTUAL OR ENVISAGED) WOULD CAST A SHADOW OVER THE BILATERAL SUMMIT. APPARENT ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ARGENTINE CLAIM BY FRANCE AFTER THE BLOODY CONFLICT IN THE FALKLANDS WOULD BE DEEPLY RESENTED. I LEFT A COPY OF MY SPEAKING NOTE.

2. GUTMANN SAID HE FULLY REALISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION TO BRITAIN. HOWEVER FRANCE, WHICH HAD STOOD SOLIDLY BY BRITAIN DURING THE FIGHTING, HAD ALWAYS SAID THAT IT FAVOURED A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. HE RECALLED IN THIS CONNECTION RESOLUTION 502. HE ADMITTED THAT SOME POINTS IN THE ARGENTINE TEXT WERE UNSATISFACTORY BUT SAID IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR FRANCE TO ABSTAIN IF BRITAIN COULD OFFER SOME PROSPECT OF AN ALTERNATIVE WAY FORWARD TO A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THERE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE CONFLICT: WHY NOT NOW? WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS FRANCE FEARED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUING TENSION. FINALLY HE SAID THAT HE FULLY REALISED THE IMPORTANCE OF MY DEMARCHE AND THAT THE FINAL FRENCH DECISION WOULD TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT. I EXPLAINED AGAIN WHY NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOW INCONCEIVABLE AND REMINDED HIM THAT IN A SIMILAR SITUATION THE FRENCH WOULD SAY THEY WERE PRECLUDED BY THEIR CONSTITUTION.

3. AS I WAS LEAVING HE TOOK ME ASIDE AND SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THERE WAS A CHANCE OF A FRENCH ABSTENTION. I WOULD NOT READ TOO MUCH INTO THIS BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FRENCH ARE BEING GIVEN PAUSE IN PARTICULAR BY THE THOUGHT OF THE EFFECT OF THEIR DECISION ON THE BILATERAL SUMMIT.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO UKREP BRUSSELS (REPEATED AS REQUESTED)  
FRETWELL

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