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TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 895 OF 25 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE CANBERRA, OTTAWA, WELLINGTON, WASHINGTON  
YOUR TELNOS 1696 - 7: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. THANK YOU FOR THESE FURTHER VIEWS. MY COLLEAGUES AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT THE ARGENTINE DRAFT, IF PUT TO THE VOTE IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WILL BE CARRIED BY A LARGE MAJORITY, AND THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO CAUSE US PROBLEMS IN FUTURE YEARS BY PUTTING US ON THE WRONG FOOT IN UN TERMS. WE ARE AWARE OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF THIS, EVEN IF THE IMPACT ON THE GROUND AND IN DOMESTIC TERMS IS RELATIVELY LITTLE. BUT LEAVING ASIDE ANY RESERVATIONS OF DETAIL, OUR MAIN CONCERN IS TO AVOID FINDING OURSELVES IN ANOTHER UN MORASS OVER THE FALKLANDS, WITH AMENDMENTS AND COUNTER-AMENDMENTS FLYING, AND NO GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL NOT FINISH UP IN A WORSE MESS THAN WHEN WE STARTED. WE CANNOT CONTEMPLATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY AND WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OF HEART BY ARGENTINA INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE NON-USE OF FORCE.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CANNOT HOPE TO AMEND THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, INCLUDING THE PREAMBLE, IN A WAY THAT WOULD ACCORD UNMISTAKABLY WITH THIS POSITION AND WHICH WOULD REMOVE ALL OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THE DRAFT IN OUR DIRECTION AND TO MAKE IT UNACCEPTABLE TO ITS AUTHORS IS FRAUGHT WITH DANGERS AND UNCERTAINTY. I DO NOT THINK WE COULD MISLEAD THE OLD COMMONWEALTH AND OTHER FRIENDS ABOUT OUR VOTING INTENTIONS EVEN ON AN AMENDED DRAFT. I AM ALSO NOT CONFIDENT THAT ONCE WE START DOWN THE AMENDMENT ROAD WE COULD COUNT ON THEM TO RESIST SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER COMPROMISE.

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GIVEN OUR GENERAL APPROACH I DO NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN A PROCESS THAT WE CANNOT CONTROL AND WHICH COULD TURN OUT VERY UNSATISFACTORILY. IT WOULD FOR EXAMPLE BE DAMAGING IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WERE SEEN TO VOTE DOWN A REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. WE NOW PROPOSE TO STEP UP OUR CAMPAIGN TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF NEGATIVE VOTES AND ABSTENTIONS. HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES ARE LIKELY TO ISSUE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND POSTS WILL BE ASKED TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE RIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT OF THE VOTE. I AM IN FACT REASONABLY ENCOURAGED BY THE RESPONSES TO OUR TELNO 150 TO ABIDJAN, ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS REMAIN A MAJOR CONCERN. AND I AM ALSO NOT TAKING THE AMERICANS FOR GRANTED. ON THE OTHER HAND I BELIEVE WE MADE A USEFUL IMPACT ON GENSCHER WHEN HE WAS HERE ON 19 OCTOBER.

4. I KNOW HOW MUCH THOUGHT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THIS AND I AM SORRY THAT CONSIDERATIONS HERE HAVE LED US TO A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION FROM YOURS. I AM OF COURSE AWARE THAT THE PICTURE MAY CHANGE AS THE DEBATE GETS CLOSER AND I SHALL BE READY TO BE FLEXIBLE IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE RADICALLY.

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