


GRS 320
CONFIDENTIAL
FM PARIS 301230Z OCT 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

CONFIDENTIAL

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1026 OF 30 OCTOBER 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, ATHENS, BRUSSELS, UKREP BRUSSELS,
COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, ROME, DUBLIN, BONN, TOKYO.

Argentina


UKMIS NEW YORK TELS NOS 1765 AND 1766 (NOT TO ALL):
FAKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. I SPOKE TO GUTMANN, SECRETARY - GENERAL AT THE QUAI, TO REMIND HIM OF THE REPRESENTATIONS I MADE ON 22 OCTOBER AND TO DRAW HIS ATTENTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO MITTERRAND, WHICH HE CONFIRMED HE HAD SEEN.

2. GUTMANN SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT HOW MITTERRAND WOULD RESPOND AND DID NOT EXPECT TO HEAR ANYTHING BEFORE TUESDAY AS MITTERRAND WOULD BE INACCESSIBLE OVER THE LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS GUTMANN SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME TO CHEYSSON WHO HAD DECIDED THAT FRANCE 'WOULD PERSIST IN ITS POSITION'. ACCORDING TO GUTMANN THIS MEANT THAT WHILE FRANCE HAD BEEN A FAITHFUL ALLY DURING THE CONFLICT IT NOW HELD THAT THE ONLY WAY FORWARD WAS BY NEGOTIATIONS. I REMINDED HIM OF THE VERY STRONG CASE WE HAD PUT AGAINST VOTING FOR THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION AND OF THE FACT THAT THE VOTE WAS DUE ON THE DAY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL FOR THE BILATERAL SUMMIT. HE REPLIED THAT THE FRENCH HAD WEIGHED WHAT I HAD SAID ABOUT THE IMPACT ON BRITISH OPINION AND DID NOT UNDERESTIMATE ITS IMPORTANCE BUT BELIEVED NEVERTHELESS THAT THEIR DECISION WAS THE RIGHT ONE. HE COULD NOT HOWEVER PREJUDGE IN ANY WAY WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION WOULD BE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE COINCIDENCE OF THE VOTE WITH THE SUMMIT.

4. WHEN FIRST SECRETARY (CHANCERY) SPOKE THIS MORNING TO THE DEPUTY DIPLOMATIC ADVISER AT THE ELYSEE, GAILLARD SAID ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE CAUSED MITTERRAND TO WAVER IN HIS INCLINATION TO AUTHORISE A FRENCH VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION. MITTERRAND HAD NOT ACTUALLY SEEN THE MESSAGE BUT HAD BEEN TOLD OF ITS CONTENTS. GAILLARD EXPECTED ME TO BE TOLD UNOFFICIALLY WHAT MITTERRAND'S CONSIDERED REACTION WAS ON TUESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER.

FRETWELL.

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

FAKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO
UND

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FAKLAND ISLANDS

CABINET OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL