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TO IMMEDIATE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELEGRAM NO.1790 OF 2 NOVEMBER 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PRIORITY ALL EC POSTS, CARACAS,  
BOGOTA, BRASILIA,LIMA,MEXICO CITY.

FALKLANDS AT UNGA 37 : FIRST DAY.

1. THE DEBATE ON ITEM 135 OPENED AS SCHEDULED THIS MORNING (2 NOVEMBER). THE RAPPOREUR OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 BRIEFLY INTRODUCED THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE TERRITORY. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN SPOKE FOR AN HOUR (SUMMARY IN MY TELNO.1785). IT WAS A HEAVY AND LEGALISTIC PERFORMANCE IN WHICH AGUIRRE LANARI CONCENTRATED ON ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY AND ON THE IRRELEVANCE OF SELF DETERMINATION IN THE FALKLANDS. THE ASSEMBLY LISTENED CAREFULLY AT FIRST BUT HE HAD LOST HIS AUDIENCE BY HALF WAY THROUGH.
2. I SPOKE NEXT (TEXT IN MY TELNO.1784 TO FCO, COI AND WASHINGTON ONLY). MY SPEECH WAS DELIBERATELY VERY DIFFERENT FROM AGUIRRE LANARI'S. I CONCENTRATED ON THE ARGENTINE ACT OF AGGRESSION EARLIER THIS YEAR, ON THE UN PRINCIPLES AT STAKE, ON THE RIGHTS OF THE ISLANDERS AS A PEOPLE AND ON THE INADEQUACIES OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. IF MY STATEMENT MADE A BETTER IMPACT THAN AGUIRRE LANARI'S (AND HE WAS AN EASY ACT TO FOLLOW), IT WAS BECAUSE IT WAS ABOUT SUBJECTS WHICH WERE CLOSER TO THE HEARTS OF MY AUDIENCE. BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE COMPLIMENTS WE RECEIVED WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO DECISIONS TO VOTE NO OR ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION.
3. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS IN THE PLENARY THIS MORNING AND ITS PROCEEDINGS WERE ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING (3 NOVEMBER).
4. THE AFTERNOON WAS DEVOTED TO THE HEARING OF PETITIONERS IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED YESTERDAY TO GRANT HEARINGS TO CHEEK AND BLAKE, AS WELL AS TO THE FOUR QUISLINGS MOBILISED BY THE ARGENTINES, A NUMBER OF LATIN DELEGATIONS INSISTED FIRST ON MAKING STATEMENTS CALLING IN QUESTION CHEEK'S AND BLAKE'S CLAIMS TO REPRESENT THE ISLANDERS. I SPOKE BRIEFLY IN REPLY. CHEEK AND BLAKE THEN MADE ADMIRABLE STATEMENTS (TEXTS IN MY TELNO.1787 TO FCO,COI AND WASHINGTON ONLY). THEY PROCEEDED TO DEAL FLUENTLY WITH SOME PRETTY INEPT QUESTIONING FROM THE LATIN DELEGATIONS. ONLY LISTRE (ARGENTINA), WITH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON THE ISLANDS' DEPENDENCE ON ARGENTINA SINCE THE 1971 COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT AND THE ALLEGED INADEQUACY OF BRITISH PROVISION FOR THE ISLANDERS, MADE ANY IMPACT. CHEEK AND BLAKE WON EASILY ON POINTS.

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5. THE ARGENTINE PETITIONERS WERE THEN HEARD. THE TWO WOMEN (MINTO DE PENNISI AND COUTTS DE MACIELLO, BOTH OF THEM ISLANDERS MARRIED TO ARGENTINES) WERE UNIMPRESSIVE, READING OUT STATEMENTS WHICH HAD CLEARLY BEEN WRITTEN FOR THEM. THE TWO MEN (REED, AN ARGENTINE MARRIED TO AN ISLANDER, AND BETTS, AN ISLANDER WHO NOW HAS ARGENTINE CITIZENSHIP) PUT UP A RATHER BETTER PERFORMANCE. THEY MADE THE USUAL ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA POINTS ABOUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STAGNATION ON THE ISLANDS AND THE NEED FOR THE ISLANDERS TO LIVE WITH ARGENTINA, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE MANY ARGENTINE CITIZENS OF BRITISH ORIGIN. THEY MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SOWING THE THOUGHT THAT BLAKE AND CHEEK REPRESENT ONLY ONE POINT OF VIEW ON THE ISLANDS AND THAT THERE IS AT LEAST A SUBSTANTIAL MINORITY WHO FAVOUR CLOSER TIES WITH ARGENTINA. WE WILL TRY TO COUNTER THIS DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE DEBATE, THOUGH SOME OF THE POINTS THEY MADE (EG THE EXTENT OF THE CHANGES CREATED BY THE ARGENTINE INVASION) ARE ONES THAT WE CAN TURN TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

6. THERE ARE NOW 38 SPEAKERS INSCRIBED FOR THE REMAINING ONE AND HALF DAYS OF DEBATE. ONLY TWO OF THEM ARE LIKELY TO SPEAK ON OUR SIDE (ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, WHICH HAS REMAINED ON THE LIST AFTER ALL - MY TELNO.1783 AND FIJI) PLUS PERHAPS ZAIRE. THE SPEAKERS LIST REMAINS OPEN UNTIL NOON TOMORROW (3 NOVEMBER) AND WITH SO MANY ALREADY INSCRIBED IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE VOTE WILL BE REACHED ON THURSDAY MORNING. THERE IS TALK OF ITS BEING POSTPONED UNTIL FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER.

7. PLEASE SEE MIFT ON VOTING INTENTIONS.

THOMSON

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