

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
~~MR EVANS~~
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)

HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/FID (2)
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
RESIDENT CLERK

MRS M. PATTISON ; FID
MR C. ROTH ; LAST, ODA

MR A TITCHENER ; DOT
MR C W ROBERTS , IAT)

MW

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM UKMIS NEW YORK 040153Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1808 DATED 3 NOVEMBER 82
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, ATHENS, DUBLIN, BONN.

FALKLANDS: US MISSION AND THE PRESS

1. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION AMONG UN CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT THE ROLE WHICH THE US MISSION IS TRYING TO PLAY THROUGH THE PRESS. CORRESPONDENTS NOTED THE TIME LAG BETWEEN MRS KIRKPATRICK'S SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON 2 NOVEMBER THAT AN AMERICAN DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION AND SUBSEQUENT CONFIRMATION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. FOR SOME HOURS THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY FAILED TO ENDORSE THE US MISSION'S REPORT, GIVING RISE TO SPECULATION HERE THAT THE MISSION'S MOTIVE IN GOING PUBLIC SO QUICKLY WAS TO GUARD AGAINST A SUBSEQUENT CHANGE OF MIND.

2. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 3 NOVEMBER MRS KIRKPATRICK GAVE AN UNATTRIBUTABLE BRIEFING. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO TWO BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS (REUTERS AND BBC: PLEASE PROTECT) WHO WERE PRESENT, AND THE STORIES THEY ARE FILING WILL PRESUMABLY APPEAR OVERNIGHT.

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3. MRS KIRKPATRICK PREDICTED THAT THERE WOULD BE 'MASSIVE SUPPORT' FOR THE RESOLUTION. THE VOTES IN FAVOUR WOULD INCLUDE ABOUT HALF OF THE TEN (SHE NAMED FRANCE, ITALY, IRELAND AND GREECE). SHE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS AND A HANDFUL OF NEGATIVE VOTES. THE US WAS SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE AND NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD SHORTLY BE VISITING LATIN AMERICA. THE US BELIEVED IN THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY NEGOTIATION AND NOT IN THE USE OF FORCE (HENCE THEIR OPPOSITION TO ARGENTINA'S INVASION). THERE HAD BEEN A PROGRESSIVE MODERATION AND ALTERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE US HAD INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE HEMISPHERE WHICH WERE NOT IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF THE UK, ALTHOUGH THEY SHARED THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AS US. SHE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CUBA AND NICARAGUA HAD TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE IN ORDER TO FUEL THE FLAMES OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONALISM.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE BRITISH ATTITUDE TO THE AMERICAN VOTE, MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAD CONSULTED US FREQUENTLY, AND HAD TOLD US OF THEIR DECISION AT THE SAME TIME AS THEY TOLD THE ARGENTINES. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SHE ADMITTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER INDICATED THAT THEY COULD LIVE WITH THE RESOLUTION. SHE SAID THAT IT WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE A STRONG BRITAIN IN THE WORLD. AND PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD A DEEP REGARD FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, SHE DID NOT THINK THAT THE US HAD DONE ANYTHING WHICH VIOLATED BRITISH INTERESTS AND DID NOT BELIEVE THAT VITAL BRITISH INTERESTS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE RESOLUTION. (ON DEEP BACKGROUND, SHE INTERJECTED THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD OF COURSE HAVE NO REAL EFFECT).

COMMENT

5. WE SPENT YESTERDAY TRYING TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE US MISSION'S ANNOUNCEMENT AS THE DEBATE WAS OPENING. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY, WE HAVE DEVOTED A LOT OF EFFORT TODAY TO COUNTERING RUMOURS THAT WE HAD LITTLE SUPPORT AMONG THE EUROPEANS. MRS KIRKPATRICK'S PREDICTION OF MASSIVE SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION AND OF THE DEFECTION OF HALF OF OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS WILL DOUBTLESS BE CARRIED AROUND THE WORLD BY REUTERS, BBC AND OTHERS PRESENT, AND FEATURED IN TOMORROW'S

REUTERS, BBC AND OTHERS PRESENT, AND FEATURED IN TOMORROW'S
US PRESS (IT MAY MISS BRITISH DEADLINES). IT IS ANOTHER UNHELPFUL
ACT WHICH COULD INFLUENCE THE VOTES OF WAVERERS.

6. IT IS TOO LATE IN THE NEW YORK DAY TO ARRANGE A COUNTER-
BRIEFING. THROUGH THE DAY WE HAVE TAKEN THE LINE THAT OUR
SUPPORT IS HOLDING UP WELL. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE KIRKPATRICK
STORY, AP AND REUTER MAY REFLECT OUR BRIEFING THAT WE DO NOT
SHARE THE US ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY OUTCOME AND BELIEVE THAT
A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WILL NOT SUPPORT THE
RESOLUTION. WE TOLD THEM THAT, SO FAR AS WE WERE AWARE, FINAL
VOTING DECISIONS HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN BY MEMBERS OF THE TEN IN
THE MANNER INDICATED AT THE U S BRIEFING. IF THE STORY BREAKS
ON THE LINES INDICATED TO US, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER TAKING
CORRECTIVE ACTION EARLY ON 4 NOVEMBER LONDON TIME, IF WE ARE
SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT OF OUR BASIS FOR DOING SO, IN A WAY
WHICH COULD STILL REACH A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE SOME HOURS BEFORE
THE VOTE IS TAKEN.

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