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FM COLOMBO 050545Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 309 OF 5 NOVEMBER

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 108 TO GEORGETOWN

FALKLAND ISLANDS : PRIME MINISTERIAL MESSAGE

1. WOULD YOU PLEASE PASS TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM PRESIDENT GAYOOM OF THE MALDIVES ?

BEGINS :

I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR MESSAGE REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON THE FALKLANDS ISSUE. THE GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THIS ISSUE VERY CLOSELY. AS REPEATEDLY INDICATED, MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF RESORTING TO MILITARY ACTION IN SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. DESPITE THE SUPPORT OF SOME OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO ARGENTINA'S POSITION IN THE FALKLANDS PROBLEM, I HAD PERSONALLY EXPRESSED MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS CLEARLY ON THE MATTER, IN MY RESPONSE TO YOUR WORDS OF WELCOME AT THE LUNCHEON IN LONDON DURING THE CRISIS. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THIS POSITION AND I HAVE ASKED THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO INSTRUCT THE MALDIVES DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ABSTAIN ON THE ARGENTINIAN RESOLUTION.

WITH THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

ENDS.

NICHOLAS

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