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RESIDENT CLERK

GRS 370

CONFIDENTIAL

FM LISBON 051650Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 52 OF 5 APRIL 1982

INFO PRIORITY MADRID

INFO SAVING UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 63: FALKLANDS.

1. I SAW ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER (LEONARDO MATHIAS) THIS MORNING AND SPOKE ON LINES OF YOUR PARAS 2 - 6.
2. I THANKED MATHIAS FOR HIS CLEAR STATEMENT OF SUPPORT DURING LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW ON 4 APRIL IN WHICH HE CONDEMNED ARGENTINE ACTION AS SOMETHING UNACCEPTABLE TO PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS OPPOSED TO USE OF FORCE IN SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. I ALSO THANKED MATHIAS FOR PROMPT CLEARANCE OF RAF FLIGHTS THROUGH PORTUGUESE ATLANTIC FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION OVER PAST 48 HOURS.
3. MATHIAS CONFIRMED HIS STRONG CONDEMNATION OF ARGENTINE ACTION. HE HAD DEFLECTED QUESTION DURING RADIO INTERVIEW ABOUT BRITISH REACTION AT TIME OF INDIAN INVASION OF GOA. (OUR TREATY WITH MALDI... ISLANDS... PREVENTED US FROM AGREEING PORTUGUESE FLIGHTS

mf

HE HAD DEFLECTED QUESTION DURING RADIO INTERVIEW ABOUT BRITISH REACTION AT TIME OF INDIAN INVASION OF GOA. (OUR TREATY WITH MALDIVE ISLANDS PREVENTED US FROM AGREEING PORTUGUESE FLIGHTS THROUGH RAF GAN IN 1961). HE HAD ALSO FIRMLY REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT HMG HAD RECOGNISED INDONESIAN OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR. HE HAD STATED FIRMLY THAT BRITAIN WAS PORTUGAL'S OLDEST ALLY AND TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WOULD COVER REFUELLING AT PORTUGUESE PORTS OR AIRPORTS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE AGREED IF REQUESTED. (MATHIAS HINTED THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD REQUIRE LESS CONSIDERATION THAN SHIPS).

4. PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WERE GREATLY CONCERNED AT THIS SUDDEN CRISIS AND WANTED TO HELP. PORTUGAL HAD ONLY A CHARGE CURRENTLY AT BUENOS AIRES. MATHIAS SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH HIS PRIME MINISTER POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL FOR CONSULTATIONS, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME 50,000 PORTUGUESE NATIONALS IN ARGENTINA. HE ASKED PARTICULARLY TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY MOVES BY OTHER COUNTRIES. POSSIBILITY OF RESTRICTING CREDIT WOULD BE EXAMINED (BUT SCOPE FOR ACTION SEEMS NEGLIGIBLE). MATHIAS KNEW OF NO IMPENDING ARMS DEALS.

5. MATHIAS SAID HE APPRECIATED GREAT IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING UTMOST PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN NEXT TWO WEEKS AND HOPED WE WOULD STAND FIRMLY ON QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE MOBILISING OPINION THROUGH ACTION AT THE UN, THE I.C.J., THROUGH NATO AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

6. MATHIAS QUOTED REPORTS TODAY FROM PORTUGUESE EMBASSY, MADRID, OF PRO-ARGENTINE REACTION AND LINKAGE WITH GIBRALTAR IN SOME PARTS OF SPANISH PRESS.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVINGS ADDRESSEES.

BYATT

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