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IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MADRID 051040Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 175 OF 5 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL).

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELEGRAM NO. 172 : FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES IN BAD COMPANY AS THE ONLY NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRY TO ABSTAIN ON THE UK DRAFT RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEMANDING INTER ALIA THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. THIS POINT, WHICH I SHALL CERTAINLY RUB IN HERE, HAS NOT BEEN LOST ON THE MORE LIBERAL SECTIONS OF THE SPANISH PRESS (SEE SEPARATE REPORT). THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S DILEMMA WAS CONSIDERABLE. THEY WERE DRAWN TOWARDS ARGENTINA BY HISPANIC SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL OPPOSITION TO BRITISH POLICY ON DECOLONISATION, EVEN THOUGH CALVO SOTELO HAS PUBLICLY EMPHASISED THIS WEEK-END THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND GIBRALTAR. NEVERTHELESS THEY WERE PROBABLY AWARE OF THE DANGERS FOR THEIR EUROPEAN POLICY OF REFUSING TO CONDEMN THE USE OF FORCE BY A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. HENCE PEREZ LLORCA'S CIVIL MESSAGES TO YOU AND THEIR DECISION TO ABSTAIN. I SUSPECT THAT THEY WERE MISLED BY DE PINIES IN NEW YORK. WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND CUENCA SPOKE TO ME LATE ON 2 APRIL THEY SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO THEIR ADVICE FROM NEW YORK, THE BRITISH RESOLUTION HAD LITTLE CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE. ONLY HALF AN HOUR LATER THE NEWS OF THE FAVOURABLE VOTE CAME THROUGH ON THE BBC WORLD SERVICE.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I EXPECT THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER IS FEELING RATHER RUEFUL, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLY ADVERSE IMPACT ON THEIR PROSPECTS OF EARLY ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I EXPECT THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER IS FEELING RATHER RUEFUL, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLY ADVERSE IMPACT ON THEIR PROSPECTS OF EARLY ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY AND ALLIANCE OF THEIR FAILURE TO CONDEMN MILITARY AGRESSION BY A DICTATORSHIP. THEY SHOULD BE WATCHING WITH APPREHENSION THE REACTION OF THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WHOM CALVO SOTELO IS VISITING NEXT WEEK.

3. I SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TAKING THE SORT OF ACTION OUTLINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 63 TO ANKARA. BUT, FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REASONS, THEY WILL WANT IF POSSIBLE TO TRY TO SHOW ON APRIL 20/21 THAT ACTIVE MEASURES ARE AFOOT FOR RECOVERING GIBRALTAR BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION. IN PRACTICE THIS MAY PRESENT GRAVE DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM, JUST AS IT DOES FOR US.

4. SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM (NOT TO ALL) ABOUT PROPOSED TACTICS.

PARSONS

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