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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 1157 OF 6 APRIL 1982,

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK.

MY TELNO 1118: FALKLANDS

1. US PRESS COVERAGE OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS REMAINS VERY FAVOURABLE AND WELL AHEAD OF THE ADMINISTRATION. BOTH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST CARRY HELPFUL EDITORIAL. (NEW YORK TIMES: AMERICAN CREDIBILITY WITH BOTH SIDES CAN HELP, BUT THERE IS NO SENSE PRETENDING THAT WASHINGTON'S RELATIONS WITH THE TWO PROTAGONISTS ARE SYMMETRICAL. WASHINGTON POST: THE UNITED STATES HAS A LARGE AND STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING BRITISH ADMINISTRATION OF THE FALKLANDS RESTORED. SO DO MANY OTHER NATIONS SOME OF WHICH RECOGNISE THAT INTEREST AND SOME OF WHICH DO NOT.) FULL TEXTS IN MIFT. IN ITS EDITORIAL THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ATTRIBUTES THE ARGENTINE ACTION TO A MISREADING OF BRITAIN'S WILL TO RESIST. IN THE WASHINGTON POST MARY MCGRORY CRITICIZES THE PRESIDENT FOR NOT DECLARING HIMSELF MORE CLEARLY AGAINST ARGENTINA IN HIS REMARKS YESTERDAY (MY TELNO 1119).

2. ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE AN ARTICLE IN THE WASHINGTON POST, REPORTING REAGAN'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP FIND A PEACEFUL CONCLUSION, SAYS THAT THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER US OFFICIALS ARE STRIVING TO MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL POSITION BELIEVING THAT ARGENTINIAN OCCUPATION OF THE FALKLANDS APPEARS TO BE AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT THAT CANNOT BE REVERSED UNLESS BRITAIN IS REDUCED TO FORCE ON A SCALE THAT WOULD CAUSE TENSIONS FOR YEARS. US OFFICIALS ARE SAID



~~THAT CANNOT BE REVERSED UNLESS BRITAIN IS REDUCED TO FORCE ON A SCALE THAT WOULD CAUSE TENSIONS FOR YEARS.~~ US OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO BELIEVE THAT WHILE BRITAIN COULD DISLodge THE ARGENTINIAN TROOPS, A BRITISH VICTORY WOULD CAUSE BITTERNESS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND STRAIN BRITAIN'S MILITARY RESOURCES IN THE LONGER TERM. US GOVERNMENT SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THEY HOPE TO FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL ACKNOWLEDGE ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS AND STILL BE SUFFICIENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO MRS THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT BRITAIN TO PULL AWAY FROM ARMED CONFRONTATION. THE IDEA SAID TO BE MOST TALKED OF IN THE ADMINISTRATION IS ONE WHEREBY ARGENTINA WOULD HAVE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLANDS WHICH WOULD NEVERTHELESS REMAIN UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

3. THE POST ALSO CARRIES COMMENTS FROM RETIRED US ADMIRALS SUCH AS ZUMWALT WHO CONTEND THAT, WHILE BRITISH NAVAL FORCES ARE TACTICALLY AND OPERATIONALLY SUPERIOR, THEY WILL BE OPERATING SO FAR FROM THEIR BASES AS TO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME KIND OF STRESSES WHICH THE US IS TRYING TO BRING TO BEAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF. (AS I HAVE REPORTED, THIS DOES NOT REFLECT WEINBERGER'S VIEWS OR THE ADVICE BEING SUBMITTED TO HIM AND TO HAIG, WHICH IS THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE NAVAL SUPERIORITY, BUT ARE LIABLE TO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN DISLODGING ARGENTINIAN TROOPS DUG IN ON THE ISLANDS.)

4. AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES BY A CORRESPONDENT WHO LIVED FOR SOME TIME ON THE FALKLANDS NOTES THAT OF ALL THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE ARGENTINIANS, NONE CAN BE MORE CYNICAL THAN ITS PLEDGE TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS OF THE FALKLANDERS WHOSE ISLANDS IT HAS INVADED.

5. I HAVE EXPLAINED OUR CASE AND MADE CLEAR THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR U.S. SUPPORT ON MOST OF THE MAJOR TELEVISION AND RADIO NETWORKS OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS. TELEVISION COVERAGE HAS BEEN VERY FAVOURABLE TO US AND UNFAVOURABLE TO THE ARGENTINIANS. US OPINION HAS ALSO BEEN REFLECTED IN THE LARGE NUMBER OF CALLS AND TELEGRAMS WE AND HM CONSULATES HAVE BEEN RECEIVING EXPRESSING SUPPORT.

HENDERSON

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