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FROM DUBLIN 081700Z APRIL 1982.  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 99 OF 08 APRIL.  
AND TO PRIORITY INFO UKREP BRUSSELS AND UKMIS NEW YORK

ADVANCE COPY  
IMMEDIATE

YOUR TELNO 57 (NOT TO UKMIS): IRISH REPUBLIC AND THE FALKLANDS.

1. I HAD A SIMILAR CONVERSATION WITH DFA (MACKERNAN) YESTERDAY. AN ASSESSMENT OF IRISH ATTITUDES TO THE CRISIS MAY BE TIMELY.

2. THE IRISH SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 502, BUT CONSCIOUSLY RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE. THEY ARE CLEARLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RESTRICTING THEIR TRADE WITH ARGENTINA OR TAKING THE OTHER MEASURES (APART FROM AN ARMS EMBARGO) IN YOUR TELNO 63 TO ANKARA FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

(A) THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS: THEY HAVE A SMALL, FAVOURABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH ARGENTINA. WHILE THEY COULD DO WITHOUT ARGENTINE IMPORTS, THEIR OWN EXPORTS WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO RETALIATION AND 3 FIRMS ACCOUNT FOR THE BULK OF THESE.

(B) THEY STILL CHERISH THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR. SO THEY WANT TO KEEP AN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES AND LEAVE THEIR LINES OPEN TO THE ARGENTINES.

(C) THERE IS A LARGE IRISH/ARGENTINE COMMUNITY (ESTIMATED AT 300,000) WHICH IS ALREADY CRITICISING THEIR SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 502.

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(D) THE IRISH FACTOR: THE WHOLE QUESTION HAS TOO MANY ECHOES OF ULSTER AND PRECISELY THOSE FACTORS WHICH MOST STIR BRITISH SYMPATHY FOR THE ISLANDERS SET THE IRISH TEETH ON EDGE. IRISH MINISTERS DO NOT WISH TO BE ACCUSED OF PLAYING BRITAIN'S GAME, ALTHOUGH IN FACT SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY LITTLE ATAVISTIC CRITICISM OF OUR POLICY.

3. THESE PREOCCUPATIONS ACCOUNT FOR SOME NEGATIVE PRESS BRIEFING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT TO YESTERDAY MORNING'S (7 APRIL) IRISH PAPERS. BUT THERE IS RECOGNITION THAT THE REPUBLIC CANNOT OPT OUT OF THE COMMUNITY'S MEASURES NOR CAN THEY EXPECT A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO EMERGE UNLESS THE ARGENTINES ARE MADE AWARE THAT THE GAME IS NOT OVER AND IS GOING TO GET ROUGHER. AN INTERVIEW BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAST NIGHT LEFT IRISH POLICY VERY OPEN AND THE WAY CLEAR TO CONFORM WITH ANY COMMUNITY DECISION. SO I BELIEVE THE IRISH SHIP WILL KEEP WITHIN THE COMMUNITY CONVOY AND WE WILL DO BEST BY STRESSING RESOLUTION 502 (RATHER THAN SOVEREIGNTY) AND THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY. THE CLOSER THE IRISH SEE THE CRISIS MOVING TO FURTHER USE OF FORCE, THE MORE NERVOUS THEY WILL BECOME AND IT WILL BECOME IMPORTANT TO PLACE OUR ACTIONS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

TATHAM.

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SENT/RECDAT 081845Z HMT/FHG