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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1193 OF 8 APRIL 1982

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK

MIPT; FALKLANDS; US PRESS.

1. TWO OF THE MOST REVEALING STORIES IN TODAY'S AMERICAN PRESS ARE ONE BY LESLIE GELB IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ABOUT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND ANOTHER, ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE POST AND THE SUBJECT OF COMMENT BY ANTHONY LEWIS IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, ABOUT THE FACT THAT JEANE KIRKPATRICK AND STOESSEL BOTH ATTENDED A DINNER AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY 2 APRIL, IE THE DAY OF THE INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS.

2. GELB WRITES THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS APPLYING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE LONDON WITH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH FLOTILLA HEADING FOR THE FALKLANDS. FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRITISH FAILURE COULD LEAD TO THE FALL OF MRS THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY ONE LESS AGREEABLE TO REAGAN, GELB DESCRIBES A POINTED DEBATE WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT BETWEEN EAGLEBURGER AND ENDERS, WITH EAGLEBURGER ARGUING THAT FAILURE TO SUPPORT BRITAIN MIGHT LEAD TO ANOTHER SUEZ-TYPE CRISIS IN BRITISH/AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND ENDERS MAINTAINING THAT OUTRIGHT SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN WOULD ENDANGER US EFFORTS IN LATIN AMERICA. HAIG IS REPORTED AS LEANING TOWARD EAGLEBURGER.

3. GELB REFERS TO MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HAIG AND SAYS THAT IMPLICIT

3. GELB REFERS TO MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HAIG AND SAYS THAT IMPLICIT IN THEM, WAS THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE WHOLE FABRIC OF BRITISH /AMERICAN MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION COULD COME UNDER QUESTION IF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED TO SIT ON THE FENCE. EAGLEBURGER REPORTEDLY STRESSED TO HAIG THE CRITICAL NEED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO STAND BEHIND THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND NON-USE OF FORCE. GELB CONCLUDES THAT THE GENERAL OFFICIAL APPRAISAL OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE WAS BLEAK AND IT WAS FELT THAT AT SOME POINT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE SIDES.

4. THE WASHINGTON POST'S REPORT ON THE DINNER AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY LAST FRIDAY SAID THAT IT WAS HELD IN HONOUR OF MRS KIRKPATRICK AND THAT IN ADDITION TO STOESSEL, ENDERS AND MIDDENDORF (US AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS) WERE PRESENT.

5. ANTHONY LEWIS IN THE NEW YORK TIMES SAYS THAT MRS KIRKPATRICK DID NOT LET A LITTLE THING LIKE AN ACT OF ARMED AGGRESSION KEEP HER AWAY FROM THE DINNER, AND THAT HER PARTICIPATION AND THAT OF STOESSEL REFLECTS THE RESPONSE OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S RECKLESS MOOD: QUOTE EVEN BY TODAY'S DEGRADED STANDARDS, IT IS SHOCKING TO THINK OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS ATTENDING AN AGGRESSOR'S DINNER PART ON THE NIGHT OF THE AGGRESSION. BUT THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN ONE'S DISGUST AT SUCH BEHAVIOUR. THERE IS THE PRACTICAL POINT THAT THE REAGAN POLICY OF CUDDLING UP TO ARGENTINA HAS BEEN AGAINST THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. THE NOTION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THAT WE COULD NUDGE THE ARGENTINE RULERS TOWARD DECENCY IF WE TREATED THEM WITH RESPECT. BUT THAT IS NOT THE KIND OF PEOPLE THEY ARE. THEY ARE COLD-BLOODED OPPORTUNISTS WHO HARBOUR AMONG THEM MURDERERS AND PLAIN FASCISTS... THE RESULT IS DEVASTATING FOR OUR CLOSEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD, BRITAIN UNQUOTE. LEWIS CONCLUDES THAT FOR THE WEST AS A WHOLE THERE IS PARTICULAR LOSS IN THE FALKLANDS AFFAIR, NAMELY THE RESIGNATION OF LORD CARRINGTON. THE WORLD WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE WITHOUT HIM. (I MIGHT ADD THAT IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT WHAT I THOUGHT OF MRS KIRKPATRICK'S AND STOESSELS ATTENDANCE AT THE ARGENTINE DINNER, I HAVE SAID ON THE RECORD QUOTE DEPLORABLE UNQUOTE)

HENDERSON

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