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TELEGRAM NUMBER 1266 OF 13 APRIL

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MY TELNO 1251: FALKLANDS/OAS

1. SUMMARY

THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL TODAY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON THE FALKLAND CRISIS (FULL TEXT IN MIFT). ALTHOUGH THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY AN ACRIMONIOUS ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEANS (INCLUDING GRENADA) AND THE LATIN AMERICANS.

DETAILS

2. PRIVATE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS THIS MORNING FAILED TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEANS AND THE LATIN AMERICANS. WHEN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL MET THIS AFTERNOON, ST LUCIA PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION CONTAINING AN EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE POSITIONS ALREADY TAKEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS WAS REJECTED: 7 CARIBBEANS SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION AND THE REST OF THE COUNCIL ABSTAINED.
3. THE COUNCIL THEN ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION IN MIFT. IT IS A REFINEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL COLOMBIAN DRAFT (MY-TELNO 1196 - NOT TO ALL) AND OMITTS ANY REFERENCE TO UNSCR 502. IT IS LESS SPECIFIC THAN THE ORIGINAL COLOMBIAN DRAFT ABOUT A MEDIATION ROLE FOR THE OAS.
4. THE VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVE MADE A SPEECH CLAIMING THAT THE OAS MUST DEMAND THE BRITISH FLEET'S WITHDRAWAL AND THAT ARGENTINA HAD A TOTAL RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY. HE ADDED THAT UNSCR 502 WAS BIASED AGAINST ARGENTINA, WHICH HAD SUFFERED THE THEFT OF ITS TERRITORY BY THE UK AND WHICH WAS QUOTE JUSTLY RESPONDING TO THAT ROBBERY UNQUOTE. VENEZUELA ITSELF HAD SUFFERED SIMILAR INDIGNITIES IN BEING DEPRIVED OF ITS OWN TERRITORY BY COLONIAL POWERS.
5. THE AMERICANS REMAINED VIRTUALLY SILENT (AS THEY HAVE DONE THROUGHOUT THE DEBATE). THEIR ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT THE US COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION SINCE THE RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE COUNCIL ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTED HAIG'S INITIATIVE AND IT WAS THEREFORE QUOTE UNSEEMLY UNQUOTE FOR THE US TO VOTE ON THEM.

6. WITH STRIKING HYPOCRISY, THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WOULD PROVE THE DEFENDER OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN TERMS OF THE OAS CHARTER. ARGENTINA SUPPORTED THE REVISED COLOMBIAN RESOLUTION SINCE IT LAID EMPHASIS ON A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO WHICH OF COURSE ARGENTINA WAS FULLY COMMITTED. HE ADDED THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF BRITISH NUCLEAR SUBMARINES TO ARGENTINE WATERS WAS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED; NOR COULD A CONTINUATION OF THE BRITISH COLONIAL OCCUPATION OF ARGENTINE TERRITORY.

7. THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION DID NOT HAVE ANY BEARING ON ARGENTINA'S RIGHT, SHOULD IT SO WISH, TO INVOKE THE RIO TREATY.

8. THE ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEANS ALL EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE REVISED COLOMBIAN RESOLUTION, EMPHASISING THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-USE OF FORCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION MUST STAND UNCOMPROMISED. ST LUCIA SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS WORTHLESS SINCE IT DID NOT UPHOLD THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF DISPUTES. THE BARBADIAN LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK ON ARGENTINA'S QUOTE UNJUSTIFIED AND UNILATERAL USE OF FORCE UNQUOTE: THE PRESENT RESOLUTION WAS INIMICAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE OAS SINCE IT MADE NO MENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OF THE NON-USE OF FORCE OR OF UNSCR 502. BARBADOS, AND OTHER SMALL COUNTRIES, COULD NOT LONG SURVIVE AS INDEPENDENT NATIONS IF THE RULE OF THE JUNGLE WERE ALLOWED TO PREVAIL IN THIS WAY.

9. ONE OR TWO LATIN AMERICANS, INCLUDING PERU, EL SALVADOR AND CHILE TOOK GENTLE SIDE-SWIPES AT THE ARGENTINE INVASION, ALTHOUGH THESE WERE WRAPPED UP IN GENERAL APPEALS FOR LATIN SOLIDARITY.

10. THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION REFLECTS ARGENTINA'S LOBBYING AGAINST ANY REFERENCE TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502 THOUGH IT CONTAINS A REFERENCE IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 TO THE NEED TO REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION QUOTE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW UNQUOTE. IN OTHER RESPECTS THE RESOLUTION IS UNEXCEPTIONABLE AND REPRESENTS THE MINIMUM THE OAS COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO DO IN RESPONSE TO ARGENTINIAN PRESSURE AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE EARLIER IDEA OF AN ACTIVE OAS MEDIATION CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL COLOMBIAN DRAFT HAS BEEN DILUTED.

... THE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL

11. IN COMMENTING TO THE PRESS, WE CONFINED OURSELVES TO SAYING THAT THE FRAMEWORK FOR A SETTLEMENT WAS ALREADY IN PLACE IN THE TERMS OF UNSCR 502 AND THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF, AS ENJOINED IN THE OAS RESOLUTION ITSELF, ARGENTINA IS PERSUADED TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

HENDERSON

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*Advances
E.F.
only*

... AND THE LATIN AMERICANS. WHEN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL