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FM CANBERRA 140439Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 155 OF 14 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

FALKLAND ISLANDS: THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER SUMMONED ME AT 0500 HOURS YOUR TIME ON 14 APRIL AND SAW ME ALONE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO HIM FROM THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM WHETHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD ASSURED US OR THE ARGENTINIANS THAT, IF IT CAME TO A CHOICE, THEY WOULD SUPPORT US RATHER THAN THE ARGENTINIANS. HE BELIEVED MOST STRONGLY THAT THE AMERICANS IN EFFECT HAD NO CHOICE: THEY MUST IF IT CAME TO THE POINT SUPPORT THEIR STRONGEST AND STAUCHEST EUROPEAN ALLY BY ACTIONS AS WELL AS WORDS, AND THEY SHOULD MAKE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINIAN JUNTA THAT THIS WAS THEIR POSITION. HOWEVER, MR RUPERT MURDOCH HAD SPOKEN ON THESE LINES AT A HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, AND HAD REPORTED TO MR FRASER THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN REASSURED BY THE REPLIES WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS AMERICAN INTERLOCUTORS.

2. WITH YOUR TELNO 698 TO WASHINGTON IN MIND, I TOLD MR FRASER THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, ASSURANCES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE GIVEN TO US, OR TO THE ARGENTINIANS. I ASKED MR FRASER WHETHER I SHOULD ENQUIRE OF YOU WHETHER WE WOULD FIND IT USEFUL FOR HIM TO EXPRESS TO THE AMERICANS THE VIEWS WHICH HE HAD OUTLINED TO ME. MR FRASER SAID THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DO THIS IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE WOULD DO SO BY MEANS OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, WITH WHOM HE HAD SOME CREDIT AND WITH WHOM HE WAS ON FRIENDLY TERMS.

3. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS. I GAVE MR FRASER NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT ANY REPLY WHICH YOU MAY INSTRUCT ME TO GIVE TO HIM WOULD NECESSARILY ENLIGHTEN HIM ABOUT THE UNITED STATES' POSITION.

MASON

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

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MR FULLER SAFU CABINET OFFICE

MISS DICKSON (BIF DIVN) D/ENERGY

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