ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS V

(2.9)

PS

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PS/PUS

MR GIFFARD

MR WRIGHT

MR ADAMS

MR URE

MR GILLMORE

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)

HD/DEF D

HD/NEWS D

HD/UND

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/HKGD

RESIDENT CLERK

PS No.10 DOWNING ST.

PS/CHANCELLOR

SIR K COUZENS

MR LITTLER

MR HAWTIN

MR PERETZ

MR ILETT

MR MCINTYRE

H.M.TSY

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE

MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE

MR FULLER SAPU CABINET OFFICE

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GRS 340

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 151638Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1286 OF 15 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY BRAZILIA, MEXICO CITY, SANTIAGO, MONTEVIDEO, LA PAZ,

LIMA, BOGOTA, ASUNCION, UKMIS NEW YORK, QUITO, UKDEL NATO.

FALKLANDS

1. IN THE COURSE OF THE TALK WITH EAGLEBURGER AND HIS ASSISTANTS TODAY THE SUBJECT CAME UP OF THE NATURE OF THE REGIME THAT AL HAIG WAS DEALING WITH IN BA. EAGLEBURGER ADMITTED THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY UNSTABLE AND DIFFICULT TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT. BUT IT WAS THE U.S. VIEW, THAT ANY SUCCESSOR REGIME TO GALTIERI WOULD BE WORSE. EAGLEBURGER ADDED THAT THIS WAS ALSO KISSINGER'S VIEW AS HE HAD EXPRESSED IT TO HIM AND ME THE OTHER NIGHT.

2. I SAID THAT I DID NOT GO ALONG WITH THIS VIEW. IN PRINCIPLE I KNEW THAT FOREIGN MINISTRIES TENDED TO BELIEVE IN AND PREFER THE STATUS QUO IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO CHANGE. I HAD A STRONG RECOLLECTION OF ARRIVING IN THE USA ON THE DAY STALIN'S DEATH WAS ANNOUNCED WHEN THERE WAS A GENERAL AMERICAN VIEW THAT THIS WAS A TRAGEDY BECAUSE AT ANY RATE THE AMERICANS KNEW WHERE THEY WERE WITH UNCLE JOE. SO FAR AS GALTIERI WAS CONCERNED, IF GALTIERI SURVIVED AND COULD MAKE OUT THAT HE HAD HAD SOME SORT OF SUCCESS, AND HE WOULD NOT SURVIVE UNLESS HE COULD DO THIS, WE WOULD BE CONFRONTED WITH A BAD MAN WHO ALSO HAD AN AURA OF ACHIEVEMENT BY AGGRESSION ON HIS SIDE. IT MIGHT BE THAT IF HE WAS SUCCEEDED IT WOULD BE BY SOME PRETTY UNDESIRABLE LEADER OR JUNTA BUT AT ANY RATE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE THE CROWN OF SUCCESS UPON THEIR HEADS. NO DOUBT THEY WOULD BE BAD BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE MUCH TO BE SAID IN FAVOUR OF GALTIERI.

3. THE AMERICANS SEEM TO THINK THAT GALTIERI'S MAIN FROBLEM WAS GOING TO BE WITH THE NAVAL COMMAND. HAIG HAD SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN SO BELLICOSE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE AS THE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICERS IN BUENOS AIRES.

HENDERSON

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