

S E C R E T

Ps / no 10 Downing Street

GRS 300

SECRET

DESKBY 181800Z

DEP

FM WASHINGTON, 181646Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1339 OF 18 APRIL

MS

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 749: FALKLANDS

1. IF THE TALKS IN BUENOS AIRES BREAK DOWN, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO US TO GET A CLEAR STATEMENT FROM THE AMERICANS OF WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES AND OF SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE IMPORTANT INTER ALIA TO HELP COUNTER THE MOVES THE ARGENTINIANS CAN THEN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE IN THE O A S TO INVOKE THE RIO TREATY.

2. AS OF LAST NIGHT BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE (MY TELNO 1332) AND HAIG HAD GOT TO THE POINT OF PREPARING TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY LAY.

3. AS WILL BE CLEAR FROM MY EARLIER TELEGRAMS, HOWEVER, THERE WILL STILL BE SOME, INCLUDING SOME OF THOSE ACCOMPANYING HAIG, WHO WILL SEEK TO DISSUADE HIM FROM MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT, ARGUING THAT THIS WOULD UNDERCUT HIS ABILITY SUBSEQUENTLY TO RESUME HIS MEDIATING EFFORTS AND THAT, AS ONE OFFICIAL HERE SOUGHT TO ARGUE TO US YESTERDAY, IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BEST TO AVOID QUOTE FINGER POINTING UNQUOTE.

4. IF HAIG MAKES SOME PROGRESS WITH THE JUNTA TODAY, THE PROBLEM WILL NOT ARISE OR AT ANY RATE WILL BE DEFERRED. IF THEY REMAIN INTRANSIGENT, HOWEVER, WHILE GIVING OURSELVES TIME TO COORDINATE, WE SHALL NEED TO WATCH VERY CAREFULLY FOR SIGNS OF THE AMERICANS GOING OFF THE BOIL.

5. WE SHALL ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER URGENTLY WHETHER, IN THE EVENT OF A BREAKDOWN, WE CAN AGREE TO THE AMERICANS REVEALING WHERE THEY HAD GOT TO IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH US. I MADE CLEAR LAST NIGHT TO CLARK THAT IT WOULD BE CRUCIAL TO CLEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THIS WITH US, AND HE HAS TELEGRAPHED TO HAIG. BUT I THINK IT INEVITABLE THAT MUCH OF THIS WILL COME OUT ANYWAY. ELEMENTS OF HAIG'S NEGOTIATING POSITION IN BUENOS AIRES ARE ALREADY SURFACING IN THE PRESS HERE.

HENDERSON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET] /
[PASSED TO E.R.]

LIMITED

HD/S AM D

PS/PUS

EMERGENCY UNIT

MR GIFFARD

COPIES TO

HD/DEF D

MR WRIGHT

PS/HOME SECRETARY

HD/PLANNING STAFF

MR URE

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

PS

MR GILLMORE

PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG

PS/MR ONSLOW

MR FULLER DIO

} CABINET
OFFICE

S E C R E T