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MR ADAMS
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MR GILLMORE

IMMEDIATE

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SIR K COUZENS
MR LITTLER
MR HAWTIN
MR PERETZ
MR ILETT
MR McINTYRE

H.M.TSY

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D P/I)
HD/DEF D
HD/NEWS D
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/HKGD

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER ~~SATO~~ CABINET OFFICE

DIO

SIR R. ARMSTRONG, CAB. OFFICE

RESIDENT CLERK.

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

GR 375

CONFIDENTIAL

FM HAVANA 191830Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 117 OF 19 APRIL,
AND INFO TO WASHINGTON, MEXICO CITY AND MOSCOW,
SAVING INFO TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

ANGLO-CUBAN RELATIONS : FALKLAND ISLANDS

1.. PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE ON LEAVE ON 26 APRIL I AM SEEKING INTERVIEWS WITH VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA (OR, IF HE IS STILL OUT OF THE COUNTRY, HIS DEPUTY, VIERA). I HAVE SUFFICIENT BRIEFING MATERIAL TO DEAL WITH THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. BUT IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIFIC POINTS YOU WOULD WISH ME TO PUT ACROSS, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR URGENT INSTRUCTIONS.

2.. MY CANADIAN COLLEAGUE TELLS ME THAT IN A PRIVATE CONVERSA ON HE HAD WITH FIDEL CASTRO WHEN THE LATTER ATTENDED BARTLEMAN'S PATRIATION DAY RECEPTION ON 17 APRIL, MENTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS LED CASTRO TO SPEAK AT LENGTH ABOUT THE INTELLIGENT WAY

CONTRASTING THE ENDURING STRENGTH OF THE
HERITAGE OF DICTATORSHIPS AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA.
CASTRO WENT ON TO TALK DISPARAGINGLY ABOUT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY
GOVERNMENT AND COMING TO THE PRESENT CRISIS, SAID, IN EFFECT,
"A PLAGUE ON BOTH THEIR HOUSES". HE CONCLUDED JOCULARLY (BUT
PROBABLY TRUTHFULLY) THAT THE BEST OUTCOME FOR CUBA MIGHT BE IF
THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE GOVERNMENTS SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING
EACH OTHER.

3.. CASTRO MAY IN PART HAVE BEEN AT PAINS TO AVOID POLEMICS WITH
HIS HOST ON WHAT WAS DEMONSTRATIVELY A COMMONWEALTH OCCASION,
ALTHOUGH HIS ADMIRATION FOR BRITAIN'S DECOLONISATION RECORD IS,
I BELIEVE, GENUINE. AND HIS CONCLUSION WAS NEITHER PARTICULARLY
ENCOURAGING NOR INDICATIVE OF HOW THE CUBANS MAY BE PREPARING TO
PLAY THE HAND (WHETHER OR NOT IN TANDEM WITH THE RUSSIANS) IF
THINGS GET ROUGH IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. BUT BARTLEMAN WAS STRUCK
BY THE ABSENCE OF ANY DIRECT CRITICISM OF HMG IN CASTRO'S
REMARKS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION.

4.. MEANWHILE OTHER SENIOR CUBANS TO WHO I HAVE SPOKEN CONTINUE TO
EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND,
WHILE MAINTAINING WITH DIFFERING DEGREES OF BLUNTNESS THAT CUBA
IS BOUND TO SUPPORT ARGENTINA. THE CUBAN PRESS IS NOW PLACING
MOST EMPHASIS ON ARGENTINE PREPARATIONS TO REPEL BRITISH
"AGGRESSION" AND ONE OR TWO RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL COMMENTARIES
HAVE REFLECTED THE LINE THAT THE CRISIS IS ALL PART OF A US
PLOT TO SECURE MILITARY BASES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. BUT THERE
HAS STILL BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT.

FCO PASS SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

THOMAS

NENN