

UKDEL STRASBOURG

GRS243

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FM FCO 201445Z APR 82

TO FLASH UKDEL STRASBOURG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 20 APRIL

YOUR TELNO 36 FALKLANDS DEBATE IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
(FOR MARSDEN)

1. PLEASE SPEAK TO MRS CASTLE, MAKING CLEAR THAT YOU ARE TAKING A LINE WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY MR HURD. WE SEE GREAT IMPORTANCE IN MAINTAINING IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THE COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN SO EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND COMMISSION. MR HAIG HAS TOLD US THAT THIS HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ARGENTINES IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM. THE ESSENTIAL THING IS TO KEEP UP PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINES TO COMPLY WITH SCR 502. THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE TASK FORCE HAS SERVED THIS PURPOSE. IT WILL HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE EFFECT IF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE IS SEEN TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN TWO RIVAL TEXTS, ONE OF THEM APPEARING TO PUT LESS PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA AND MORE ON THE UK. THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT A TIME FOR THE WILL OF THE UK AND ITS SUPPORTERS IN THE COMMUNITY TO BE THOUGHT TO BE WEAKENING. DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPS IN THE PARLIAMENT WILL NATURALLY HAVE DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE, AND WILL EXPRESS THESE IN DEBATE. BUT SUCH DIFFERENCES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS HAVE NONETHELESS NOT PREVENTED A FAIRLY GENERAL ACROSS-PARTY POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THE E P CAN MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION BY FOLLOWING THE SAME PATTERN AND CONCENTRATING ON ONE SINGLE RESOLUTION.

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