

MADFO 021/25

25 APR 1982

E.R.

ZZ FCO



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GRS 450

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MADRID 250020Z APR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 218 OF 25 APRIL

0042

*Infaxed
to Chequers*

25/4

PERSONAL FOR PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY
YOUR TEL NO. 129 : SUAREZ INITIATIVE.

1. I EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM VERY EARLY THIS MORNING TO PEREZ LLORCA. HE WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL. HAVING TELEPHONED THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER, HE RANG BACK TO SPEAK AS FOLLOWS. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT KNEW THAT SUAREZ WANTED TO SET HIMSELF UP AS A MEDIATOR AND ATTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION BY SO DOING. THEY ALSO KNEW THAT HE HAD MADE A SIMILAR OFFER TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN SPITE OF DISCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CALVO SOTELO WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE ABLE TO SEE SUAREZ THIS EVENING.
2. I SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD IN LONDON, BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME TACTICAL DISADVANTAGE FOR US IF WE WERE TO REFUSE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM SO IMPORTANT A SOURCE AT SUCH A CRITICAL MOMENT. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR US TO OFFER TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION THROUGH AZA. THIS WOULD HELP CALL SUAREZ'S BLUFF IF MEDIATION WAS HIS REAL AIM. PEREZ LLORCA AGREED THAT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD SOLUTION; BUT THERE COULD STILL BE HEADLINES HERE IF AZA LET IT BE KNOWN WHY HE HAD FLOWN TO LONDON. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BETTER TO OFFER TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION QUIETLY THROUGH ME IN MADRID.
3. BUT PEREZ LLORCA ADDED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE FURTHER SOUNDINGS LATER THIS MORNING ABOUT THE INFORMATION. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE BE MOST GRATEFUL IF WE WOULD SEND NO (REPEAT NO) REPLY AT ALL TO THIS INITIATIVE UNTIL PEREZ LLORCA HAD CONTACTED ME AGAIN. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MORNING. OUR COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE HAD BEEN MUCH APPRECIATED.

4. NEEDLESS TO SAY, BOTH CALVO SOTELO AND PEREZ LLORCA WERE MOST ANXIOUS THAT THEIR INTERVENTION IN THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED TO SUAREZ.

PARSONS

NNNN

I spoke to N° 10 duty office to ensure that no reply would be made direct from N° 10.

*Bus. informed at 0710
Tel. sent in reply at his request.*

SENT/RECD AT 25/0042Z RSP/RE