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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1468 OF 26 APRIL 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, NASSAU, BRIDGETOWN, LA PAZ, BRASILIA, SANTIAGO, BOGOTA, SAN JOSE, QUITO, KINGSTON, SANTO DOMINGO, TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO CITY, PANAMA CITY, ASUNCION, LIMA, PORT OF SPAIN, MONTEVIDEO, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS/RIO TREATY

1. SUMMARY. CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE RIO TREATY BEGAN IN WASHINGTON TODAY (26 APRIL). MOST RIO TREATY SIGNATORIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA. COSTA MENDEZ'S VIOLENT SPEECH WAS FOLLOWED BY WARM APPLAUSE. A FIRM STATEMENT BY HAIG THAT FORCE HAD BEEN USED BY AN AMERICAN STATE AND SECURITY RESOLUTION NO 502 LAID DOWN THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT WAS GREETED WITH TOTAL SILENCE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VENEZUELA AND PANAMA, THE OTHER SPEAKERS MADE MODERATE SPEECHES. THE IMPRESSION IN THE CORRIDORS IS THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF SUPPORT FOR A PERUVIAN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, POSSIBLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. AN ARGENTINE
... WITHDRAWAL OF OUR FORCES FROM

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. AN ARGENTINE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF OUR FORCES FROM THE TREATY AREA AND THE SUSPENSION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA AT PRESENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF ABOUT TEN DELEGATIONS.

DETAIL

2. COSTA MENDEZ CLAIMED THAT THE CONVOCATION OF THE RIO TREATY MEETING WAS A SYMBOL OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY WITH ARGENTINA. BRITISH AGGRESSION THREATENED NOT ONLY ARGENTINA BUT THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE WHOLE LATIN AMERICAN REGION. THE BRITISH ATTACK ON SOUTH GEORGIA DEMONSTRATED HOW THE UK DISREGARDED THE COURSE OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION. THE UK HAD ANSWERED ARGENTINA'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS (SIC) WITH QUOTE AN ACT OF WAR UNQUOTE.

3. COSTA MENDEZ CLAIMED THAT ARGENTINA HAD TAKEN NO-ONE'S TERRITORY OTHER THAN ITS OWN, AND FURTHERMORE IT HAD NOT HURT A SINGLE SOLDIER OF THE OCCUPYING POWER IN DOING SO. THE HISTORY OF BRITISH COLONIALISM, HE ASSERTED SHOWED THE UK'S CONTINUING QUOTE IMPERIALIST PASSION UNQUOTE.

4. THE BRITISH ATTACK ON SOUTH GEORGIA WAS PERFIDIOUS SINCE THE UK WAS AT THE SAME TIME SWEARING THAT IT SUPPORTED PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS. WHAT FAITH COULD NOW BE ATTACHED TO BRITISH STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES CONTAINED IN UNSCR 502? IF BRITAIN'S ATTACK ON SOUTH GEORGIA WAS DESIGNED TO PRESSURE ARGENTINA, IT WOULD HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. ARGENTINA WOULD DEFEND ITSELF TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT: THE ARGENTINE FLAG WOULD NOT BE LOWERED UNTIL THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD HAD BEEN EXPENDED BY THE ARGENTINE SOLDIERS THERE TO PROTECT THEIR NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS.

5. ARGENTINA DEMANDED (A) THAT UK FORCES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE TREATY AREA DEFINED IN CHAPTER 4 OF THE RIO TREATY: (B) THAT ECONOMIC MEASURES BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND OTHERS SHOULD BE SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY, SINCE THEY VIOLATED THE RULES OF THE UN CHARTER.

6 IN A LONG AND INTEMPERATE SPEECH, THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DEEP INDIGNATION AT UK MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA: AGGRESSION AGAINST ARGENTINA WAS AGGRESSION AGAINST THE WHOLE OF LATIN AMERICA. THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WAS IMPOTENT AND INELIGIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE BIASED VOTING SYSTEM IN THAT BODY WHICH WORKED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT POWERS. THUS THE MATTER HAD TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OAS AND THE RIO TREATY. VENEZUELA WOULD SUPPORT ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO DEFEND ARGENTINA

WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OAS AND THE RIO TREATY. VENEZUELA WOULD SUPPORT ALL PROVISIONS NECESSARY TO DEFEND ARGENTINA.

7. TEXT OF HAIG'S SPEECH IN MIFT. THE MAIN FEATURE OF THIS SPEECH WAS THAT HAIG STATED THAT ARGENTINA HAD ACTED AGGRESSIVELY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND THAT THE UN AND NOT THE OAS WAS THE PROPER BODY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE.

8. THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ASSERTED THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND THAT URGENT MEASURES WERE NEEDED. PERU WOULD TABLE IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE TRUCE, LEADING TO NEGOTIATIONS, POSSIBLY UNDER UN AUSPICES. HE CALLED ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS ALLIES TO SUSPEND THEIR SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA.

9. THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SUPPORTED THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL AND SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE TREATY SIGNATORIES TO HELP FOSTER A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. BRAZIL HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO THE MALVINAS, AND UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON THEIR DECOLONISATION. HOWEVER, BRAZIL ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE AND WOULD JOIN PERU IN URGING THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF UNSCR 502.

10. THE HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER MADE A SIMILARLY MILD STATEMENT EMPHASISING THAT THE RIO SIGNATORIES MUST FIND AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION FOR BOTH PARTIES WHICH MAINTAINED THE PRIMACY OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACE ENshrined IN THE OAS CHARTER.

11. THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE AT LENGTH WITHOUT MAKING ANY SERIOUS POINTS, BUT GENERALLY SUPPORTING ARGENTINA.

12. THE MEETING ADJOURNED THIS EVENING WITH SEVEN OUT OF THE SEVENTEEN SPEAKERS HAVING MADE THEIR STATEMENTS. THE MEETING WILL RECONVENE TOMORROW AND WEDNESDAY, WHEN IT IS AIMED TO COMPLETE THE CONSULTATIONS PROCESS.

CONCLUSIONS

13. ALTHOUGH HAIG'S SPEECH WAS ICILY RECEIVED, THE MAJORITY OF THE SIGNATORIES APPEAR RELUCTANT TO GET DRAGGED INTO SANCTIONS AGAINST BRITAIN: ARGENTINA APPEARS TO HAVE RECOGNISED THIS BY AVOIDING CALLING FOR SUCH SANCTIONS AT THE MOMENT. BRAZIL INDICATED SUPPORT FOR PERU'S MORE MODERATE RESOLUTION (THE TEXT OF WHICH HAS YET TO BE CIRCULATED). THERE WERE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLUTION 502.