

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(90) +

PS +6
PS/MR HUED
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

ED/S AK D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
ED/DEF D
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ED/UND
ED/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
RESIDENT CLERK

Hd of NAB

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PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLER)
MR HAVTIN)
MR PERETZ) TREASURY
MR ILETT)
MR MCINTYRE)

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/ES
DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADSWORTH GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO " "

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

GRS 490

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ *Reclassified*

FM WASHINGTON 011655Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE P80

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1557 OF 1 APRIL MAY

INFO UKHIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK

FALKLAND ISLANDS: U S PRESS

1. THE ONE BIG STORY, DOMINATING THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE NEW YORK TIMES, IS SUMMARIZED IN THE TIMES HEADLINE: U S SIDES WITH BRITAIN IN FALKLAND CRISIS AND IN STORIES HEADED QUOTE BRITAIN HAILS U S SUPPORT UNQUOTE, REPORTING YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE AND YOUR VISIT HERE THIS WEEKEND. THERE ARE GOOD EDITORIALS (TEXTS IN MIFT).

2. BOTH PAPERS CARRY THE STATEMENTS MADE YESTERDAY BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY HAIG AND REPORT A SUBSEQUENT PRESS BRIEFING BY HAIG, ATTRIBUTED AS USUAL TO A SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL.

3. THE QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE IS SAID TO HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE STEPS ORDERED BY REAGAN WILL HAVE LIMITED PRACTICAL IMPACT ON ARGENTINA'S MILITARY OR ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE SHORT TERM BUT WERE INTENDED AS AN ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL SIGNAL THAT MIGHT JOLT ARGENTINA'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT INTO TAKING A MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE THAT WOULD PROMOTE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. IN THE UNATTRIBUTABLE BRIEFING HAIG TOOK EXCEPTION TO COSTA MENDEZ CLAIM THAT ARGENTINA HAD NOT REJECTED THE U S PEACE PROPOSALS, COMMENTING THAT ARGENTINA'S WRITTEN REPLY HAD CONSTITUTED A VERY CLEAR REJECTION. HAIG WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE STICKING POINTS IN NEGOTIATIONS AS BRITAIN'S INSISTENCE THAT THE WISHES OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS BE GIVEN HIGH PRECEDENCE AND ARGENTINA'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER ANY OUTCOME THAT DID NOT ENTAIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY. HAIG DESCRIBED A REPEATED PATTERN OF ARRIVING IN BUENOS AIRES BEARING WHAT HE THOUGHT HAD BEEN AN AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATION ONLY TO FIND THE ARGENTINES REITERATING THAT THEY DID NOT CONSIDER SOVEREIGNTY NEGOTIABLE. HAIG TOLD REPORTERS THAT, WITH HINDSIGHT, A FAIR ASSESSMENT MUST SAY THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD BEEN REASONABLE AND FORTHCOMING THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS AND THAT ARGENTINA HAD BEEN LESS SO. WHILE THE U S HAD NOT BROKEN WITH ARGENTINA, THE TIME HAD ARRIVED WHEN IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE U S PUBLIC AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY SHOULD KNOW WHERE THE U S STOOD AND WHY. HAIG WAS STILL HOPEFUL THAT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION COULD BE FOUND AND THOUGHT THAT MILITARY ACTION MIGHT CONSTITUTE A BENCHMARK FOR RECONSIDERATION IN BOTH CAPITALS.

5. ON THE SUBJECT OF U S ASSISTANCE TO THE BRITISH, HAIG DECLINED TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS BUT SAID THAT ANY U S HELP WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF HISTORIC, ON-GOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRITAIN AND SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS.

6. THE NEW YORK TIMES QUOTES PENTAGON OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS, INCLUDING SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO BRITAIN. THE PENTAGON THOUGHT THAT THE BRITISH MIGHT WISH TO BUY MILITARY SPARE PARTS OR NEW EQUIPMENT IN THE U S AND PAY TO HAVE IT FLOWN BY C5 OR C141 TRANSPORTS TO ASCENSION ISLAND. OFFICIALS ALSO SAID THAT, SO FAR, TWO AMERICAN TANKERS HAD FILLED UP THE FUEL TANKS ON ASCENSION, AND THAT U S FLEET OILERS AND CARGO SHIPS MIGHT BE ASKED TO HELP RE-SUPPLY BRITISH SHIPS.

HENDERSON

PSE AMEND DATE IN PREAMBLE TO READ 3 MAY

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(4) + 7 CAB

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PS/MR SIED
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GR 800
UNCLASSIFIED
FM WASHINGTON 011658Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1558 OF 1 MAY
INFO UKM:IS NEW YORK AND BIS NEW YORK

MIPT: FALKLAND ISLANDS - US PRESS

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF EDITORIALS:-

(A) WASHINGTON POST

BACKING THE BRITS

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S HESITATION TO COME TO OPEN SUPPORT OF BRITAIN IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WAS PRINCIPLED, SINCE IT PROVIDED A BASIS TO ATTEMPT MEDIATION. WHEN ARGENTINA STOOD FIRM ON ITS ABSURD DEMAND TO HAVE ITS AGGRESSION RATIFIED, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO THE EQUALLY PRINCIPLED DECISION IT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY: TO BACK THE BRITS.

THE MOVE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EASY FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, GIVEN HIS EARLIER EFFORTS TO COME CLOSER TO AN AUTHORITARIAN ARGENTINE REGIME

FOR PURPOSES OF FIGHTING COMMUNISM IN THE HEMISPHERE. NOR WILL THE
THE PURPOSE OF FIGHTING COMMUNISM IN THE HEMISPHERE, NOR WILL THE

EXPECTED ENHANCEMENT OF AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH EUROPE ALTOGETHER COMPENSATE FOR THE COMPLICATIONS LIKELY TO COME IN LATIN AMERICA. MR. REAGAN, HOWEVER, HAS SERVED THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF WORLD ORDER. HE HAS SHOWN, AS SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG PUT IT, THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT CONDONE THE USE OF UNLAWFUL FORCE TO RESOLVE DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS -- EVEN WHEN FORCE IS USED BY A FRIENDLY STATE.

THE STEPS THE ADMINISTRATION NOW CONTEMPLATES TO HELP BRITAIN ENTAIL NOT DIRECT MILITARY PARTICIPATION BUT SUPPLIES, PLUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE CAREFULLY LEFT OPEN A POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. THE BRITISH PRESUMABLY WILL NOT BE BLIND TO THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THESE LATEST EVENTS ON NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS; CERTAINLY THE REQUIREMENT FOR BRITISH FLEXIBILITY HAS NOT EVAPORATED.

SENSIBLE ELEMENTS REMAINING IN BUENOS AIRES SHOULD SEE THAT AMERICAN MEDIATION CONTINUES TO OFFER ARGENTINA ITS BEST EXIT FROM THE CRISIS. IN PARTICULAR THEY SHOULD NOTE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION STILL HOLDS ITSELF READY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT QUOTE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES UNQUOTE AND THAT THE AMERICANS REMAIN WELL SHORT OF ENDORSING THE EARLIER BRITISH INSISTENCE THAT THE WISHES OF THE INHABITANTS, MOST OF WHOM ARE THOROUGHLY SET IN THEIR BRITISH WAYS, MUST BE QUOTE PARAMOUNT UNQUOTE.

THE PROSPECTS OF HEAVY MILITARY ACTION ARE NOW VERY STRONG. THE BRITISH MAY APPLY MAXIMUM PRESSURE WHILE ARGENTINA IS REELING UNDER WASHINGTON'S POLITICAL BLOW, AND THEY WILL ALSO WANT TO BEAT THE WEATHER. THE ARGENTINE GENERALS, LOOKING FOR A SHARP NATIONALISTIC DISTRACTION, HAVE PUT THEIR NATION INTO THE GREATEST CRISIS IN ITS HISTORY. AS PAINED AND CONFUSED AS ARGENTINES MUST FEEL, HOWEVER, SURELY THEY HAVE AMONG THEM RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE WHO PERCEIVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN MODERATION AND PEACE.

(B) THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHOCK THERAPY FOR ARGENTINA

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DECISIVE TILT TO BRITAIN CAME JUST IN TIME. WITH LUCK AND MORE RESOURCEFUL DIPLOMACY, IT MAY AVERT A TRAGIC AND POINTLESS WAR OVER THE FALKLANDS.

THOUGH PROBABLY FOREWARNED, ARGENTINE OFFICIALS SAY THEY WERE QUOTE STUPEFIED UNQUOTE BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMERICAN SANCTIONS AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT. ADVERTISED OR NOT, THE SHOCK THERAPY WAS PLAINLY NECESSARY TO SHAKE THE JUNTA FROM ITS TRANCE. IT SEEMED CONVINCED THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH THAT ITS GRAB FOR THE ISLANDS WOULD BE APPLAUDED BY OTHER HEMISPHERE NATIONS -- AND OVERLOOKED BY THE UNITED STATES IN GRATITUDE FOR MARGINAL HELP IN EL SALVADOR. BY NOW OPENLY SIDING WITH BRITAIN AND PROMISING HELP IN CASE OF

BY NOW OPENLY SIDING WITH BRITAIN AND PROMISING HELP IN CASE OF CONFLICT, MR REAGAN IS RELATEDLY CATCHING UP WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. EVEN AS HE DECLARED AGAINST ARGENTINA, CONGRESS WAS MOVING QUICKLY TO URGE THAT COURSE.

THERE IS A CLEAR NATIONAL CONSENSUS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ASSERTION THAT ARGENTINA'S ARMED AGGRESSION QUOTE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED UNQUOTE. ARGENTINA HAS ONLY ITSELF TO BLAME FOR THE LOSS OF MR REAGAN AS AN HONEST, OUTWARDLY NEUTRAL BROKER IN THE LONG ATTEMPT TO SAVE FACE ALL AROUND.

FOR THREE DISTRACTING WEEKS, SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG GAVE THE ROYAL NAVY REASON TO PROCEED SOUTHWARD AT A MOST DELIBERATE SPEED. TO NO AVAIL, ARGENTINA WOULD NOT WITHDRAW ITS FORCES AND ACCEPT AN INTERIM REGIME IN THE FALKLANDS UNLESS ITS AGGRESSION WAS REWARDED WITH A PROMISE OF PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY.

THE ARGENTINES SAID THEIR LEGAL CASE WAS IRREFUTABLE, YET IT COULD NOT BE SUBMITTED TO BINDING ARBITRATION. DESPITE THE RIO PACT'S REJECTION OF FORCE AS A DIPLOMATIC INSTRUMENT, THEY TRIED TO EMBARRASS THE UNITED STATES BY INVOKING IT AND LATIN PRIDE. THE TRANSPARENCY OF THEIR GAME WAS OBVIOUS TO MOST: EVEN THE RIO NATIONS GAVE ONLY RITUAL SUPPORT.

STILL, MR HAIG'S EFFORT HELPED TO DEFINE WHAT THE ARGUMENT WAS REALLY ABOUT AND PROVED WASHINGTON'S WILLINGNESS TO RISK ITS PRESTIGE FOR PEACE. EVEN IN FINALLY SIDING WITH BRITAIN, THE ADMINISTRATION APPARENTLY BOUGHT ANOTHER FEW DAYS' TIME FOR DIPLOMACY BEFORE THE BRITISH ESCALATE ANOTHER NOTCH.

WITH THE PRETENSE OF AMERICAN NEUTRALITY ABANDONED, IT IS THE UNITED NATIONS' TURN TO ASSUME THE TASKS OF MEDIATION. WITHIN HOURS OF THE INVASION, THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DEMANDED THAT ARGENTINA WITHDRAW FROM THE FALKLANDS. LET THE COUNCIL NOW AUTHORIZE SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR, A PERUVIAN, TO HELP ARGENTINA WITHDRAW UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GUARANTEE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS BUT NOT THE RESULT.

THE TIME FOR SAVING FACE HAS PASSED. THE TASK NOW IS TO SAVE ARGENTINE AND BRITISH LIVES FROM A CONTROVERSY THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE THREATENED ANY.

HENDERSON

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