

NYFO 10/89

OO FCO (DESKBY 100700Z)

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CONFIDENTIAL

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 092300Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 692 OF 9 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS ON 9 MAY.

1. TODAY'S MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS HAVE PREDICTABLY FLUTTERED THE DOVECOTES HERE. ROCA (ARGENTINA) COMPLAINED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND HAS SENT TWO LETTERS TO THE LATTER. THE ARGENTINES ARE PUTTING IT ABOUT THAT AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON 5 AND 6 MAY TACIT AGREEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO HOSTILITIES WHILE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUED HIS INITIATIVE. AS SOON AS I LEARNT THIS, I TELEPHONED BOTH PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND LING QING TO REMIND THEM THAT I HAD MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OUR SUSPENDING MILITARY OPERATIONS. IF THE ARGENTINES WENT ON CLAIMING THAT I HAD AGREED TO DO SO, I WOULD HAVE TO DENY THIS IN PUBLIC AND CITE THE PRESIDENT AND THE S.G. IN MY SUPPORT. I REPEATED THESE POINTS TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR AT THE FIRST OF OUR MEETINGS THIS EVENING (AT WHICH A REUTERS REPORT WAS BROUGHT IN ABOUT THE ALLEGED SHOOTING DOWN OF AN ARGENTINE PUMA HELICOPTER TODAY).
2. PEREZ DE CUELLAR UNDERSTANDS OUR POSITION BUT IS UNDERSTANDABLY WORRIED THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS BY EITHER SIDE WILL LEAD DORR OR LING QING TO RECONVENE THE COUNCIL, THEREBY THREATENING THE PROSPECTS FOR HIS INITIATIVE.
3. AS THE EMERGENCY UNIT WILL KNOW, I ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SEND A LETTER TODAY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 51 GIVING OUR ACCOUNT OF THE DAY'S ENGAGEMENTS. BUT AS UNCERTAINTY REMAINS ABOUT WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED I HAVE DECIDED TO DEFER MY LETTER UNTIL AN AUTHORITATIVE AND COMPLETE ACCOUNT IS AVAILABLE. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I SHOULD GET MY LETTER IN NOT LATER THAN 1700Z ON 10 MAY.

PARSONS