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CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 102142Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 700 OF 10 MAY

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN
THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME OTTAWA CANBERRA WELLINGTON.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. I HAVE BEEN GIVING PERIODICAL BRIEFINGS TO THE TEN AND SEPARATELY TO MY OLD COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES. THESE WERE NOT TOO DIFFICULT IN THE EARLIER STAGES. EVERYONE'S CURIOSITY HAS NOW BECOME INSATIABLE.
2. AT TODAY'S BRIEFINGS, I GAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF THE STAGE WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD REACHED. I SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POINTS OF CONVERGENCE AND A FEW CONTENTIOUS ITEMS (WITHOUT SPECIFICATION). I ADMITTED THAT WE WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF PHASED PARALLELISM FOR WITHDRAWAL/CEASEFIRE, THAT WE HAD A TARGET DATE IN MIND FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD BUT THAT THERE MUST BE A MECHANISM FOR IT TO BE EXTENDED IF AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED BY THAT DATE; THAT THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS ABOUT LINKAGE BETWEEN WITHDRAWAL, CEASEFIRE, SUSPENSION AND LIFTING OF ZONES AND ECONOMIC MEASURES. I CONCEDED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO ENVISAGE UN ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ISLANDS IF THE TERMS (UNSPECIFIED) WERE RIGHT. I SHOT DOWN A SUGGESTION BY DORR (IRELAND) THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING UN TRUSTEESHIP IN THE IMMEDIATE SHORT TERM. SO FAR, NO-ONE HAS MENTIONED SOUTH GEORGIA. WITH BOTH GROUPS I CONCENTRATED ON THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK, NAMELY THE NEED TO BLOCK ARGENTINE ATTEMPTS TO PRE-JUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I DISCOURAGED ATTEMPTS BY UN PUNDITS IN BOTH GROUPS TO PROPOSE FUZZY FORMULAS AND INSISTED THAT THIS WAS A QUESTION WHICH MUST BE FACED SQUARELY. IT COULD NOT BE FINESSED. I TOLD BOTH GROUPS THAT WE WERE AT PRESENT (AFTERNOON OF 10 MAY) WAITING FOR THE ARGENTINES TO COME UP WITH FRESH INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT.
3. I ASKED BOTH GROUPS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR REPORTING TELEGRAMS WERE GIVEN VERY LIMITED DISTRIBUTION IN THEIR CAPITALS AND LAID GREAT EMPHASIS ON NOT BREAKING THE CONFIDENTIALITY WHICH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS SO FAR MAINTAINED.

GREAT EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS SO FAR MAINTAINED.

4. MY CANADIAN COLLEAGUE TOLD ME PRIVATELY THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO TELL ME THAT, IF AT ANY TIME WE WANTED TO CALL ON CANADIAN ASSISTANCE ON ANY SPECIFIC QUESTION, WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO ASK.

5. I ASKED MY OLD COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES, WHO HAVE HAD MORE TIME THAN I HAVE RECENTLY TO CIRCULATE AMONGST UN DELEGATIONS, WHETHER THEY FELT THAT THE OVERALL ATTITUDE TOWARDS US WAS CHANGING FOR THE WORSE. THEY SAID THAT IT WAS NOT. THERE WAS STILL MUCH SYMPATHY FOR OUR POSITION.

6. I EXTRACTED FROM DORR THAT NO ONE WAS THINKING OF CALLING FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE COUNCIL WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROCEEDING AT THEIR PRESENT INTENSITY.

PARSONS

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