

00 F C O

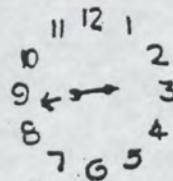
13 MAY 1982

220

00 UKMIS NY

00 BRASILIA

GPS 270



CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 122316Z

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 1731 OF 12 MAY 1982,

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, BRASILIA.

FALKLANDS

1. AT THE END OF MY TALK TODAY WITH HAIG HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE READY TO BE CALLED BACK FROM HIS EUROPEAN TRIP AT ANY TIME. HIS FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO BE OF HELP OVER THE FALKLANDS ISSUE AND WE MUST NOT HESITATE TO LET HIM KNOW IF WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON. HE COULD BE BACK IN 7 HOURS' TIME.

2. HE THEN SAID THAT HE WANTED ME TO CONVEY ONE IMPORTANT MESSAGE. THIS WAS BASED NOT ONLY ON HIS OWN FEELINGS BUT THOSE OF THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT WHO WAS HERE AND WHO, IN HAIG'S VIEW, IS A VERY SOUND MAN, IN NO WAY HOSTILE TO THE BRITISH. THIS WAS THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR US OVER RESISTANCE TO AGGRESSION. MOST LATIN AMERICANS UNDERSTOOD HOW IMPOSSIBLE THE ARGENTINIANS WERE. THEIR MACHISMO MADE THEM INTOLERABLE TO DEAL WITH. BUT BRITAIN WOULD PUT ITSELF IN THE WRONG, AND AS A RESULT INFLAME THE WHOLE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE, IF IT ATTACKED THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND. HAIG EMPHASISED THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THIS WAS OUR INTENTION, BUT HE JUST WANTED TO REGISTER HIS CONVICTION OF THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IT WOULD HAVE, THOUGH HE HOPED YOU WOULD NOT THINK THAT HE WAS SEEKING TO INTERFERE IN OUR AFFAIRS.

HENDERSON