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(FM BERNE 141542Z)

FM BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION SWISS EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 95 OF 13 MAY

CONVERSATION WITH ADMIRAL MOYA

1. ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BILL, MURCHISON, WHO HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH SENIOR NAVAL OFFICERS AND SOME IDEAS FOR A DIRECTLY-NEGOTIATED CONTINGENCY PEACE PLAN IN CASE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, MURCHISON AND I HAD AN HOUR'S INTERVIEW YESTERDAY WITH ADMIRAL MOYA, NAVAL HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WHICH SERVES THE JUNTA ITSELF.

2. I MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT I WAS ATTENDING IN A PURELY PERSONAL CAPACITY AND HAD NO AUTHORITY OR LOCUS STANDI AS A BRITISH DIPLOMAT TO CONVEY ANY MESSAGE FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT I HAD TOLD MY SWISS COLLEAGUES I PROPOSED TO ACCOMPANY MURCHISON AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS INITIATIVE TO MEET MOYA AND HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH HIM.

3. MURCHISON'S PLAN IS BASED ON A SUGGESTION FOR CESSION OF A PERMANENT ARGENTINE COMBINED SERVICES BASE ON THE ISLANDS IN EXCHANGE FOR A RETURN TO BRITISH ADMINISTRATION AND A BRITISH GOVERNOR, WITH NEGOTIATIONS OVER SOVEREIGNTY CONTINUING UNDER UN AUSPICES AND A DEADLINE FOR ITS TRANSFER TO A DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BY 1 JANUARY 1990.

4. NONE OF THESE DETAILS WERE GIVEN TO MOYA EXCEPT THE SUGGESTION OF A BASE. NATURALLY, HE SAID HE COULD NOT COMMENT AS THIS WAS NOT EVEN AN INFORMAL PROPOSAL, BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, HE DID SAY THAT IF NECESSARY, AND IF DESIRED, THE ARGENTINES WOULD BE PREPARED TO SIT DOWN TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES TO AVOID WAR. HE SEEMED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS AT THE UN, AND SAID ARGENTINA WOULD FIGHT IF NECESSARY.

5. BEFORE TAKING THIS IDEA FURTHER, HE WANTED CONFIRMATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S WISH TO PURSUE IT. I REPEATED I HAD NO STANDING IN THIS MATTER, BUT WOULD CONSULT.

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6. AFTER SPEAKING WITH FEARN I ADVISED MURCHISON TO PURSUE THE IDEA THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS TO AVOID PREJUDICING THE CURRENT DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK. I SHALL TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION.

JOY 13.5.

FROM BERNE

IN THEIR NOTE FORWARDING TO US THE TEXT OF THIS TELEGRAM THE SWISS FDFA COMMENTED THAT THE CONVERSATION OF JOY AND MURCHISON WITH ADMIRAL MOYA WAS PURELY A PRIVATE INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF JOY AND NOT (NOT) ARRANGED ON EITHER BRITISH OR SWISS INSTRUCTIONS THIS WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINE INTERLOCUTORS.

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THIS TELEGRAM WAS
NOT ADVANCED