

IMMEDIATE

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FALKLANDS SELECTIVE ADVANCES (38)

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1751 OF 13 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS: U.S. ATTITUDES

1. THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON, ASHFORD, HAS DESCRIBED TO US IN CONFIDENCE A CONVERSATION WITH A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL ABOUT U.S. POLICY IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT GENERAL WALTERS HAD VISITED BUENOS AIRES TO TRY TO REINSTITUTE AN ACTIVE U.S. ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WALTERS WAS TO INFORM THE ARGENTINES THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO FOLLOW A MORE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH IF THAT WOULD HELP BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. U.S. MATERIEL SUPPORT FOR THE U K WAS NOT OPEN-ENDED; IT COULD BE RESCINDED IF THAT SUPPORT WAS USED FOR PURPOSES INCONSISTENT WITH THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. ASHFORD'S SOURCE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A BRITISH ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND, CLAIMING THAT THIS WOULD BE RESISTED BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND SAID THAT DECISIONS ON THE FALKLANDS

THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND, CLAIMING THAT THIS WOULD BE RESISTED BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND SAID THAT DECISIONS ON THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WERE NOW BEING TAKEN IN THE WHITE HOUSE RATHER THAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. ASHFORD INTENDS TO FILE A REPORT SUGGESTING THAT THE U.S. MAY BE CLIMBING BACK ONTO THE FENCE.

2. WE HAVE HEARD SEPARATELY FROM LATIN AMERICAN SOURCES HERE THAT PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO ARGUED STRONGLY, AND HE BELIEVED WITH SOME SUCCESS, THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE U K AND THAT THE ONLY WAY OF RESTORING THE SITUATION WOULD BE FOR THE AMERICANS TO RESUME AN ACTIVE NEGOTIATING ROLE FROM A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY.

3. MY CONCLUSION IS THAT WHILE HAIG IS AWAY, A LOT OF LESSER FIGURES ARE TRYING TO GET BACK INTO THE ACT: AND THAT FIGUEIREDO'S VISIT HAS MADE SOME IMPRESSION HERE. STOESSEL, WITH WHOM I HAD A TALK THIS EVENING HOWEVER, TELLS ME THAT WALTERS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THE ARGENTINIANS.

HENDERSON

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