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PRESIDENT REAGANS PRESS CONFERENCE: FALKLANDS

DURING HIS NATIONALLY TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE ON 13 MAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS ASKED ABOUT U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA SINCE THE U.S. HAD SO FIRMLY COME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF BRITAIN. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED: QUOTE WELL I THINK THERE IS A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF MANY OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA TO FEEL THAT THEIR SYMPATHIES ARE MORE WITH ARGENTINA THAN OURS. I DO NOT THINK THERE HAS BEEN IRREPARABLE DAMAGE DONE THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE TO GO ON. THEY HAVE MOVED TO THE UNITED NATIONS NOW AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL THERE IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THEM. THIS MORNING AND YESTERDAY IN MY TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FIGUEREIDO OF BRAZIL, HE TOO IS INTERESTED AND HAS VOLUNTEERED HIS GOOD OFFICES TO TRY AND HELP. ALL THAT THOSE OF US WHO WANT TO BE BROKERS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT CAN DO IS STAND BY AND TRY TO BE HELPFUL IN THAT. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SOME OF THE ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON. THERE ARE STILL SOME. BASICALLY, IT IS DOWN TO A SITUATION OF WITHDRAWAL, OF WHAT WILL BE THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATION ON THE ISLAND ITSELF AND WHAT WILL BE THE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS THEN OF WHAT THE ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE. UP UNTIL NOW, THE INTRANSIGENCE HAD BEEN ON ONE SIDE AND THAT IS IN WANTING A GUARANTEE OF SOVEREIGNTY BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE, WHICH DOES NOT MAKE MUCH SENSE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME AGREEMENT NOW ON A WAY TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT, SO WE WILL CONTINUE TO HOPE AND PRAY. UNQUOTE

HENDERSON

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