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OO UKMIS NEW YORK (DESKBY 132359Z)

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FM WASHINGTON 132306Z MAY 82

TO FLASH F C O

TELEGRAM NO 1746 OF 13 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK (DESKBY 132359Z)

MIPT: FALKLANDS

1. CLARK TOLD ME HOW VERY CONCERNED PRESIDENT REAGAN IS ABOUT THE WORSENING FALKLAND ISLANDS SITUATION. THE USA HAS ALREADY IMPAIRED ITS RELATIONS WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE ALLIANCE IF HOSTILITIES BECAME INTENSIFIED AND IF THERE WERE FEELINGS IN THE UK THAT THE US WAS NOT BEING SUPPORTIVE ENOUGH.

2. I TOLD CLARK NOT TO BE TOO BOTHERED ABOUT THE CURRENT UNPOPULARITY THAT AMERICA SENSED IN LATIN AMERICA. THIS WAS ALWAYS HAPPENING. IT WAS THE COROLLARY OF POWER. BUT THE LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS NEEDED THE US BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND IN ORDER TO RESIST THE SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. THERE WOULD BE NO LASTING RESENTMENT FOR WHAT WAS HAPPENING NOW.

ER.

14 MAY 1982

CS

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3. CLARK ASKED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT THERE HAD BEEN A LITTLE BIT OF TROUBLE ABOUT SOME REMARKS THE PRESIDENT WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE RECENTLY IN CHICAGO. ASSUMING THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE REMARKS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT TO A CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL ON 10 ( (SEE WALL'S LETTER TO BRIGHT OF 12 MAY), I SAID THAT THERE HAD INDEED BEEN ADVERSE COMMENT UPON IT. BUT EVEN WORSE HAD BEEN THE REACTION IN LONDON TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS OF 2 MAY. THIS HAD GIVEN A COMPLETELY ONE-SIDED PICTURE OF THE FALKLANDS ISSUE. CLARK SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN DRAFTED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

4. CLARK WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HOPED I UNDERSTOOD HOW COMPLETELY ON OUR SIDE THE PRESIDENT WAS. THERE SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THAT.

5. THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH CLARK SAYING HE WANTED TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THIS SUBJECT. THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH AL HAIG NOW IF HE DID SO. HE REPEATED HOW WORRIED THE PRESIDENT WAS ABOUT IT, AS HE WAS HIMSELF. THEY WERE READY TO DO ANYTHING WE WANTED.

6. THIS INTERVENTION BY THE WHITE HOUSE HAS TAKEN PLACE OF COURSE AS SOON AS AL HAIG IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY. JEANE KIRKPATRICK HAS GOT INTO THE ACT WITH A GARBLED VERSION OF THE NEGOTIATION IN NEW YORK. IT HAS BEEN HAIG'S OBJECTIVE - AND INDEED OURS - TO KEEP HER OUT OF THE SCENE ON THIS SUBJECT. SHE DOES OF COURSE HAVE ACCESS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH HAIG IS ABLE TO THWART IF HE IS HERE. BUT THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTY WHEN HE IS AWAY. ENDERS WILL HELP HER. HOWEVER, I THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TURN THIS TO OUR ACCOUNT BY INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT IN WHATEVER WAY WE THINK BEST WHILE MAKING SURE THAT HE HAS THE PICTURE FROM US AND NOT JUST FROM MRS KIRKPATRICK.

7. INCIDENTALLY, I ASKED HAIG RECENTLY WHETHER CLARK WAS COMPLETELY SOUND ON THIS SUBJECT. HIS ANSWER WAS THAT AT THE BEGINNING CLARK HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR POINT OF VIEW, SO MUCH SO THAT IF HIS ADVICE HAD BEEN FOLLOWED IT MIGHT HAVE JEOPARDISED HAIG'S POSTURE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT RECENTLY HE HAD SWUNG THE OTHER WAY AND HIS MAIN PREOCCUPATION NOW WAS THE TROUBLE THAT THE US WAS CREATING FOR ITSELF IN LATIN AMERICA BY TAKING THE BRITISH SIDE.

8. YOU MAY THINK IT WORTHWHILE SEIZING THIS CHANCE OF SPELLING OUT WHAT IT IS THAT WE WOULD LIKE THE US PRESIDENT TO DO AT THIS STAGE. I AM SURE THAT HE WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DETAILED NEGOTIATION, BUT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOBILISE HIM IN SOME WAY:

IF, AS SIR A PARSONS REPORTS (UKMIS TELNO 741) THE WHITE HOUSE IS  
HOBBLING THAT IS ANOTHER REASON TO TACKLE THEM SOON, DIRECTLY.

ENDERSON

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