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CONFIDENTIAL

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 754 OF 14 MAY 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON,

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, MADRID, DUBLIN, ACCRA, KINSHASA, KAMPALA,
TOKYO, AMMAN, MOSCOW, WARSAW, PANAMA CITY, GEORGETOWN, PEKING.

MY TELNO 752: FALKLANDS.

1. THIS AFTERNOON'S (14 MAY) INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL PASSED WITHOUT MISHAP. PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD AND SAW A NUMBER OF DO-GOODERS AND TROUBLEMAKERS INDIVIDUALLY BEFORE THE MEETING IN ORDER TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE TOO WANTED THE MEETING TO PASS AS UNEVENTFULLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. PEREZ DE CUELLAR GAVE A BRIEF ORAL REPORT. THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REMAINED A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION, NOT ONLY FOR THE UN BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. HE HAD RECEIVED MANY MESSAGES FROM WORLD POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND WAS GETTING A VERY LARGE POST-BAG. THIS SHOWED HOW MUCH HOPE AND FAITH WAS PLACED IN THE UN. ON 2 MAY HE HAD GIVEN YOU AND THE ARGENTINES CERTAIN IDEAS FOR AN AGREEMENT CONSISTENT WITH SCR 502. BOTH PARTIES HAD ACCEPTED HIS IDEAS AS A BASIS, BUT HAD RAISED QUESTIONS WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER CLARIFICATION. SOME OF THESE RELATED TO THE DETAILS OF WITHDRAWAL, THE DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS ETC. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. A BROAD FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENT WAS TAKING SHAPE, COVERING CEASEFIRE, MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL, AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION AND NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. THERE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR THE UN, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE ATTITUDE OF BOTH PARTIES HAD BEEN SERIOUS, REFLECTING THEIR SHARED INTEREST IN REACHING AGREEMENT. THERE REMAINED, HOWEVER, DIFFERENCES WHICH WERE PROVING DIFFICULT TO BRIDGE. HE WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS. BUT A CRITICAL MOMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. AN ENDLESS EXERCISE WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE: TIME WAS NOT ON THE SIDE OF PEACE. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDITIONAL MOVEMENT QUITE SOON OR WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY. HE WAS IN DAILY TOUCH WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT FURTHER AS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANTED.

3. I SPOKE NEXT, PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR FOR HIS EFFORTS, CONFIRMING THAT WE WERE NEGOTIATING URGENTLY AND IN GOOD FAITH, AND INFORMING THE COUNCIL OF MY RECALL TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATIONS.

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4. ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, APART FROM GUYANA AND UGANDA, THEN SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. ALL EMPHASIZED THEIR CONCERN AND THEIR HOPE FOR EARLY RESULTS. DOOR (IRELAND) WAS HIS USUAL SENTENTIOUS SELF BUT THIS TIME HIS CLAPTRAP WAS HARMLESS. THE ONLY UNPLEASANTNESS CAME FROM DE PINIES (SPAIN) WHO ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FEELING IN THE COUNCIL (WHICH IN FACT NOONE ELSE EXPRESSED, EXCEPT THE USSR) THAT A CEASEFIRE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED DURING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NEGOTIATIONS. HE DID NOT ASK THE COUNCIL TO TAKE A FORMAL POSITION IN THIS SENSE NOR FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ISSUE A STATEMENT, BUT HE HOPED THAT I WOULD MAKE THE POINT CLEAR TO YOU. I DECIDED NOT TO REPLY TO THIS, IN ORDER NOT TO OPEN UP A DEBATE. TROYANOVSKY (USSR) SAID THAT WHILE SUPPORTING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EFFORTS, HE ASSUMED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD REMAIN SEIZED OF THE QUESTION, THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP IT INFORMED, THAT IF HE WAS SUCCESSFUL HIS SOLUTION WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND THAT IF HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL THE COUNCIL WOULD MEET TO CONSIDER WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN.

5. THANKS TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS, WE HAVE THUS CLEARED ANOTHER HURDLE IN THE COUNCIL. BUT THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE MEMBERS' NERVOUSNESS ABOUT HOSTILITIES IF AND WHEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EFFORTS SHOULD FAIL. THE COUNCIL IS ALL SET TO SUPPORT A SIMPLE CEASEFIRE PLUS NEGOTIATIONS RESOLUTION IN THAT EVENT.

PARSONS

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