

PP UKMIS NEW YORK

GRS 900

118 MAY 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

FM LUXEMBOURG 172229Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 149 OF 17 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON PRIORITY UKDEL NATO AND OTHER NATO POSTS  
UKREP BRUSSELS UKMIS NEW YORK

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MY TELNO 147 (NOT TO ALL):

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING:  
SUPER RESTRICTED SESSION - FALKLANDS

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE BROUGHT HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE NAC UP-TO-DATE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PICKING UP A REFERENCE IN HAIG'S OPENING STATEMENT, HE SAID THAT THE SOUTH ATLANTIC PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ALLIANCE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY AND ITS RESOLUTION IN DEFENCE OF ITS PRINCIPLES. HE THANKED HAIG FOR HIS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION. THE FOCUS WAS NOW IN NEW YORK AND THE TALKS WERE IN A CRITICAL STAGE. THE UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN HAD RETURNED THERE THAT DAY AND WOULD BE SEEING THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT ABOUT LUNCHTIME NEW YORK TIME. IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COME TO A HEAD THIS WEEK. WE COULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. AGREEMENT WAS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE BUT IT WAS NOT EASY DEALING WITH THE ARGENTINES AMONG WHOM THERE WERE MANY VOICES. IF AN AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED IT WOULD BE THE RESULT OF DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY PRESSURES, ALL BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502 WHICH HAD CALLED FOR CEASEFIRE, WITHDRAWAL AND A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION. THROUGHOUT WE HAD BEEN PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON ARGENTINA. HE HAD DESCRIBED THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD. THE MILITARY PRESSURE WAS BUILDING UP AND WE WERE SECURING THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AS WELL AS OUR LINES OF COMMUNICATION (WE HAD GIVEN THE ARGENTINES NOTICE SOME TIME AGO, AND HAD REPEATED, THAT IF THEY CHALLENGED US THERE, THEY SHOULD KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT). THE ECONOMIC MEASURES HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE AND WE WERE GRATEFUL TO OUR PARTNERS IN THE EC, TO NORWAY, PORTUGAL, THE UNITED STATES, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. THIS SUPPORT HAD BEEN VERY IMPORTANT, AND ITS CONTINUATION IN THIS VERY CRITICAL WEEK WAS VITAL. IT WOULD BE VERY



NUMBER OF PEOPLE, BUT WE WERE ALSO TALKING ABOUT A VERY MAJOR ISSUE, ABOUT AGGRESSION AND ABOUT UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW. THE PUBLIC GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THIS. THE ARGENTINES WERE ILLEGAL INVADERS. WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAD A CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY, INVALID IN OUR VIEW, BUT THERE WERE WAYS OF RESOLVING THAT WITHOUT THE USE OF FORCE. THE ARGENTINES HAD USED FORCE AND HAD FIRED THE FIRST SHOT. OUR OBJECTIVE WAS TO ACHIEVE THEIR WITHDRAWAL AND A SOLUTION IN WHICH THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY WOULD NOT BE PRE-JUDGED. WE WOULD DO THIS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER: WITH THE HELP OF OUR ALLIES BY PEACEFUL MEANS, WHICH WOULD SHOW THE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF THE ALLIANCE. BUT IF NOT BY PEACEFUL MEANS, BY OTHER MEANS. HOWEVER OUR OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED THE WORLD WOULD HEAVE A SIGH OF RELIEF BECAUSE OTHER SMALL COUNTRIES WOULD FEEL A LITTLE BIT MORE SECURE. MOREOVER, THERE WOULD BE A PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THE CONCEPT OF DETERRENCE BY BRINGING OUT THAT OUR DEFENCE IN THE ALLIANCE EXISTED TO PRESERVE PEACE.

2. ALL SPEAKERS EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK. HAIG SPOKE OF BRITAIN'S BRAVE STAND NOT ONLY BECAUSE BRITISH TERRITORY HAD BEEN INVADIED BUT BECAUSE THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF RESISTING AGGRESSION COULD HAVE DANGEROUS RESULTS. THE US SUPPORTED THE UK DESPITE THE COST TO ITSELF AND THE POSSIBLE DANGERS TO US CITIZENS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE PRINCIPLE WAS OF WIDER APPLICATION.

3. PEREIRA (PORTUGAL) SPOKE OF PORTUGAL'S SUPPORT FROM THE BEGINNING. THE ARGENTINE ACTION WAS AN INADMISSIBLE USE OF FORCE WHICH COULD NOT BE PERMITTED SO LONG AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION HAD NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT.

NO. 10700 3/1 (4/12/50 WT)

ROBERT BUCKLEY - DEPT. OF DEFENSE

1950: IMMEDIATE ACTION PLAN ENLIGHTENED COUNCIL WOULD AND CLARENCE WYIC 1951

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