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18 MAY 1982

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TO IMMEDIATE ATHENS  
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FALKLANDS: EC IMPORT BAN

1. IT IS CLEARLY DOUBTFUL WHETHER, WHEN THE RENEWED COMMUNITY REGULATION IMPOSING AN IMPORT BAN ON ARGENTINA EXPIRES ON 24 MAY, ITS FURTHER RENEWAL WILL BE FEASIBLE. THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC MAY MAKE IT LESS LIKELY. THE DANES IN PARTICULAR MAY NOT AGREE A FURTHER PERIOD OF MEASURES BASED ON ARTICLE 113. AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ITALIAN OR IRISH POSITION WILL CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
2. OUR INTEREST REMAINS ON BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GROUNDS TO MAINTAIN THE EMBARGO BY AS MANY OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AS WE CAN. WE THEREFORE NEED TO BRING WHAT PRESSURE WE CAN TO BEAR ON MEMBER STATES EITHER TO RENEW ON THE PRESENT BASIS OR, IF THEY ARE WILLING TO SUBSTITUTE NATIONAL MEASURES FOR THE COMMUNITY BAN, TO PUT THEMSELVES IN A POSITION TO TAKE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, WITH EFFECT FROM 25 MAY, SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO GAP. ALTHOUGH OUR PARTNERS MAY BE TEMPTED TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME IN NEW YORK, WITH THE ASCENSION DAY HOLIDAY THIS WEEK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY SHOULD DO SOME CONTINGENCY PLANNING NOW. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SPEAK TO THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCREDITED AT A HIGH LEVEL (AND UKREP SHOULD TAKE PARALLEL ACTION AS APPROPRIATE WITH THE COMMISSION) ON THE FOLLOWING LINES.

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3. (FOR ALL EXCEPT ITALY AND IRELAND) WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING THE IMPORT BAN AGAINST ARGENTINA. WE CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION. UNTIL ARGENTINE FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS. ECONOMIC MEASURES ARE A VITAL ELEMENT. SHOULD A POLITICAL SOLUTION NOT HAVE BEEN REACHED BY THE EXPIRY OF THE COMMUNITY BAN ON 24 MAY, (FOR DENMARK ONLY) WE LOOK TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY THE LEGISLATION WHICH THEY ARE ABOUT TO INTRODUCE SEMI-COLON (FOR ALL EXCEPT ITALY, IRELAND AND DENMARK) A CONTINUATION OF THE IMPORT BAN WILL BE NECESSARY BY AS MANY MEMBER STATES AS POSSIBLE BY WHATEVER MEANS COMMAND SUPPORT. THE BEST SOLUTION MIGHT BE RENEWAL OF THIS WEEK'S REGULATION (WITH ITS EXEMPTIONS FOR ITALY AND IRELAND PLUS A PROVISION FOR DENMARK ANALAGOUS TO THAT FOR THE UK'S NATIONAL MEASURES) FOR A FURTHER PERIOD, PERHAPS A MONTH. WITH THE DOUBTERS NOW OUT OF IT WE HOPE THIS WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED. BUT, TO GUARD OURSELVES AGAINST THE UNEXPECTED, WE HOPE THOSE MEMBER STATES WHO ARE CONTINUING TO GIVE US THEIR BACKING MAY BE READY TO TAKE NATIONAL MEASURES INSTEAD. THEREFORE HOPE BOTH THAT OUR PARTNERS WILL GIVE US ALL NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF THE PRESENT COMMUNITY BAN, AND WILL HAVE READY FOR IMMEDIATE INTRODUCTION WHATEVER MEASURES ARE NECESSARY UNDER THEIR CONSTITUTIONS TO CONTINUE THEIR OWN BANS ON A NATIONAL BASIS, THUS ENSURING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO GAP AFTER 24 MAY. (THE UK BAN IS ALREADY UNDER ARTICLE 224 AND COVERS ARGENTINE IMPORTS FROM ANY SOURCE. OUR PARTNERS COULD FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN.) (FOR ALL EXCEPT ITALY AND IRELAND) IN THIS WAY A SUBSTANTIAL PART, AT LEAST, OF THE SOLIDARITY WHICH THE COMMUNITY HAS SHOWN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS WILL BE MAINTAINED AND THE PRESSURE KEPT UP ON ARGENTINA.

4. (FOR ITALY) WE UNDERSTAND THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE LED TO THE INABILITY OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO BAN ARGENTINE IMPORTS. NONETHELESS (FOR ITALY AND IRELAND) IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN COMMUNITY

SOLIDARITY AND TO SEND THE RIGHT SIGNALS TO ARGENTINA. THE UK CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION IF HUMANLY POSSIBLE, BUT UNTIL ARGENTINE FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS. WE THEREFORE LOOK TO THE ITALIAN AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT ANY COMMUNITY DECISION ON 24 MAY WHICH THE MAJORITY WANT AND WHICH SAFEGUARDS THEIR POSITION. WE WELCOME THEIR CONTINUING POLITICAL SUPPORT, INCLUDING THE ARMS EMBARGO AND THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED CREDITS. (FOR IRELAND) WE RECOGNISE IRELAND'S SPECIAL POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE UNSC. BUT WE LOOK TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT US AS A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY AND OF POLITICAL COOPERATION BEFORE TAKING ANY INITIATIVES OF THEIR OWN ON A MATTER OF SUCH CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO US.

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