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FM FCO 202020Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE MEXICO CITY

TELEGRAM NUMBER 424 OF 20 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

1. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THIS EVENING AT HIS URGENT REQUEST TO REITERATE, ON THE PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO, THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER TO PROVIDE A MEETING PLACE IN MEXICO FOR A DIALOGUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA HAD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO SUCH A DIALOGUE. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASISED THAT MEXICO WAS NOT OFFERING MEDIATION BUT THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE TO CONFIRM THAT THE DOORS REMAINED OPEN TO FACILITATE A MEETING.

2. I ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS KIND OFFER WHICH I WOULD PASS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, TELLING HIM BRIEFLY WHERE WE STOOD AND REFERRING TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF KNOWING TO WHOM ONE COULD USEFULLY AND RELIABLY TALK ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE SUPPOSED THAT THERE WOULD BE A NEED TO TALK FACE TO FACE AT SOME STAGE AND IF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE NOT WILLING TO MEET PRESIDENT GALTIERI PERHAPS THERE COULD BE A MEETING UNDER MEXICAN AUSPICES BETWEEN ME AND MY ARGENTINE COUNTERPART. I ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO BEAR THE MEXICAN OFFER IN MIND.

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