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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 200112Z MAY 82
TO FLASH FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 791 OF 19 MAY
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MIPT: FALKLANDS.

1. ALTHOUGH PEREZ DE CUELLAR REFUSES TO ADMIT DEFEAT AND THE COUNCIL IS SUPPORTING HIM IN THIS, I DO NOT FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT OUR OWN POSITION.
2. FIRST, FOLLOWING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, PEREZ DE CUELLAR WILL NOT CONSIDER THAT WE HAVE ACTED IN BAD FAITH IN ANNOUNCING TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TOMORROW (20 MAY) THAT WE REGARD THE PRESENT ROUND AS HAVING ENDED WITH THE ARGENTINE REJECTION OF OUR PROPOSALS. SECONDLY (THE POINT I MADE SO MUCH OF AT CHEQUERS LAST SUNDAY) HE WILL NOT ACCUSE ME OF BAD FAITH IF HM FORCES LAND ON THE FALKLANDS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I MADE THE DEADLINE CLEAR TO HIM AND LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS SERIOUSLY INTENDED; AND THAT THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE AMOUNTED TO A CLEAR REJECTION OF OUR PROPOSALS. IT WAS THEREFORE HIS CHOICE, NOT OUR JOINT AGREEMENT, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE HIS NEGOTIATING EFFORT ONE LAST CHANCE.
3. FURTHERMORE, I STRESSED TWICE AT THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS THAT MY EXTREME PESSIMISM RESULTED FROM THE FACT THAT OUR PROPOSALS WERE FINAL AND THAT THE ARGENTINE RESPONSES REVEALED WIDE GAPS AND WERE THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE TO US. MY ONLY REACTION TO VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL APPEALS FOR MODERATION AND RESTRAINT WHILE THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS PURSUING HIS NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO TAKE NOTE AND STATE THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT THESE SENTIMENTS TO MY GOVERNMENT. I GAVE THE COUNCIL NO GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT WE MIGHT BE DISPOSED TO ACQUIESCE IN SUCH CALLS. FROM THEIR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES ON THIS SUBJECT AT MY HANDS, I DO NOT THINK THAT ANYONE WAS IN DOUBT AS TO THE REAL FACTS OF THE SITUATION. THIS WILL NOT PREVENT THEM FROM ACCUSING US OF BAD FAITH, BUT THIS WILL BE A FAIRLY MINOR ELEMENT IN THE STORM WHICH IS BOUND TO BREAK HERE SOONER OR LATER.

4. TOMORROW (20 MAY) I INTEND TO SIT TIGHT AND REFUSE CONTACT WITH THE MEDIA UNTIL AFTER THE COMMONS DEBATE IS OVER AND I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY IT.
5. WE ARE GOING TO NEED ALL THE SUPPORT WE CAN GET FROM OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THE DAYS TO COME - I EVEN TOOK THE EXCEPTIONAL STEP OF BRAIN-WASHING MRS KIRKPATRICK THIS EVENING ON THE FLEXIBILITY WE HAD SHOWN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AS OPPOSED TO ARGENTINE OBDURACY (ON THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF MY TEL NO 765). SOME OF MY COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE SO UNTRUSTWORTHY THAT I WILL NOT BRIEF THEM UNTIL FRIDAY, IE AFTER THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE. BUT I AM LUNCHING TOMORROW (20 MAY) WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND INTEND TO GIVE A FULL BRIEFING TO THE OLD COMMONWEALTH, WHOM I CAN TRUST.

PARSONS

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