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CONFIDENTIAL

20 MAY 1982

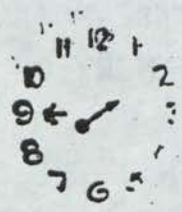
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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 202355Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 801 OF 20 MAY 1982

FOR NEWS DEPARTMENT



FALKLANDS: PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

1. AS REPORTED BY TELEPHONE TO THE HEAD OF NEWS DEPARTMENT, WE HAD A MINOR BRUSH AT MIDDAY ON 20 MAY WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS SPOKESMAN OVER CERTAIN REFERENCE DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR TELNO 90 TO ABIDJAN. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OBJECTED (CORRECTLY) TO A HEADING INSERTED HASTILY AND WITHOUT PROPER CONSIDERATION WHICH REFERRED TO "THE BREAKDOWN OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE SETTLEMENT". HE ALSO FELT, WITH LESS JUSTIFICATION, THAT WE SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID, AFTER A REFERENCE TO ARGENTINA'S REJECTION OF BRITISH PROPOSALS, THAT THE PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS AT AN END; AND SHOULD NOT HAVE DESCRIBED ARGENTINA'S POSITION AS "FINAL" (AS IN YOUR TELNO 87 TO ABIDJAN) BECAUSE THE ARGENTINES HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS NOT.



2. I APOLOGISED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL IF, IN OUR HASTE TO PUBLISH THE PAPERS, WE HAD INADVERTENTLY CAUSED HIM ANY EMBARRASSMENT. TO MOLLIFY HIM, WE ISSUED A CORRECTED VERSION, AND WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO EMPHASISE TO THE PRESS THAT WE DREW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS EFFECTIVELY ENDED BY THE ARGENTINE REJECTION (TO WHICH TODAY'S DOCUMENTS REFERRED), AND THE LATER AND ENTIRELY SEPARATE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPOKESMAN HIMSELF STRESSED THAT THESE EFFORTS DID NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL MEDIATION; THAT HE HAD NOT TABLED A PLAN OR FORMAL UN PROPOSALS; AND THAT HE HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED THE PARTIES TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO HIS "IDEAS". WE HAVE ALSO DRAWN ATTENTION THROUGHOUT THE DAY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S DESCRIPTION IN PARLIAMENT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S LATEST EFFORTS, POINTING OUT THAT THIS IS THE LATEST DEFINITIVE BRITISH STATEMENT ON HIS EFFORTS AND IN NO SENSE REJECTS THEM.

3. I THINK THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS CALMED DOWN. BUT, AS I UNDERSTAND TREVOR MCDONALD HAS POINTED OUT IN HIS REPORT THIS EVENING, THIS MINOR EPISODE DEMONSTRATES HOW EXTREMELY SENSITIVE THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT HIS NEGOTIATING EFFORTS ARE NOW AT AN END.

PARSONS

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