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TO FLASH UKREP BRUSSELS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 456 OF 24 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE TO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM PUS

WASHINGTON TELNO 1869: HAIG'S VIEWS ON THE FALKLANDS

1. OD(SA) THIS MORNING THOUGHT THAT SIR N HENDERSON SHOULD SPEAK TO HAIG AGAIN TODAY. I RECOMMEND THAT HE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING.
2. IT IS DISCONCERTING THAT HAIG SHOULD BE SO VOLATILE. AS HENDERSON HAS POINTED OUT, HAIG WAS URGING US ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION. HENDERSON SHOULD DO ALL HE CAN TODAY AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO KEEP HAIG STEADY. HE MAY WISH TO TRY THE TECHNIQUE OF ASKING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS (SOME ARE SUGGESTED BELOW) SO AS TO ENCOURAGE HAIG TO FOCUS ON THE ACTUAL SITUATION RATHER THAN TO INDULGE IN RAPIDLY CHANGING GENERALITIES.
3. HENDERSON SHOULD POINT OUT TO HAIG THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRITISH BRIDGEHEAD IN THE FALKLANDS IS BOUND TO HAVE A MAJOR EFFECT ON OUR DIPLOMATIC POSITION. PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC OPINION WOULD TOLERATE NOTHING LESS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN THE HOUSE ON 20 MAY THAT OUR DRAFT INTERIM AGREEMENT WAS WITHDRAWN. WE CANNOT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDER THE IDEA OF BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FALKLANDS OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION. THE PARALLEL WITH OUR REPOSSESSION OF SOUTH GEORGIA, AFTER WHICH HAIG AGREED THAT THE DEPENDENCIES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY INTERIM AGREEMENT, IS OBVIOUS. HENDERSON SHOULD ADD THAT WE HOPE THAT MRS KIRKPATRICK'S INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE AMENDED (PARA 2 OF WASHINGTON TELNO 1870), IN THE SENSE THAT SHE WOULD VETO ANY RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED FOR A CEASEFIRE WITHOUT ALSO CALLING FOR ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCR 502, OR ANY RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED FOR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL.
4. HENDERSON SHOULD CONTINUE THAT WE ARE DETERMINED



TO BRING ABOUT ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL WITH THE FEWEST POSSIBLE CASUALTIES, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT MADE CLEAR IN PARLIAMENT ON 20 MAY THAT WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 502. THE ESSENTIAL HOWEVER IS THAT ARGENTINA DEMONSTRATE A REAL CHANGE OF POSITION, FOR INSTANCE BY INDICATING A WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW WITHIN A FIXED TIME LIMIT.

5. HENDERSON SHOULD ASK HAIG WHETHER HE SEES ANY SIGN THAT ARGENTINA'S WILL TO CONTINUE FIGHTING MAY FAIL AND WHETHER, IF THIS HAPPENED, ARGENTINA WOULD CHANGE HER POSITION REGARDING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

WHAT IS THE US EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES SAYING ON THESE POINTS?

6. HENDERSON COULD ALSO ASK HAIG ABOUT LIKELY EVENTS IN THE OAS AND WHETHER HAIG WOULD ATTEND ANY MEETING.

7. HENDERSON COULD POINT OUT THAT THE EC'S INDEFINITE EXTENSION OF ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST ARGENTINA IS A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN'S POLICIES IN THIS CRISIS. THE ADMINISTRATION TOO CAN GIVE A HELPFUL LEAD TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION, AND INDEED TO DOMESTIC OPINION IN THE US, BY CONTINUING TO REITERATE THAT ARGENTINA BEGAN THIS CRISIS BY COMMITTING AGGRESSION, AND THEN REFUSED FOR SEVEN WEEKS TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY: AND THAT BRITAIN IS NOW ENGAGED, AS A LAST RESORT, IN USING MILITARY MEANS TO END THE ARGENTINE OCCUPATION AND IS SUFFERING CASUALTIES IN THE PROCESS WHICH SHE WOULD FAR RATHER HAVE AVOIDED.

OUR MILITARY ACTION IS IN NO WAY A REASON FOR THE US CLIMBING BACK ON THE FENCE. WE GREATLY HOPE THAT HAIG WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS IN THIS SENSE.

PYM