

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (39) 40 TYPING

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR GNSLOW
PS/PJS
MR BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE
HD/PUSD (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/DEF DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/EPD
HD/ECD(2)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
EMERGENCY ROOM ✓
RESIDENT CLERK

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
SIR M PALLISER) CABINET
MR WADE-GERY) OFFICE
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO)
DIO)

RM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

Miss Dickson, D/ENERGY

HD/NAD

[Passed to E.R.]
[Typists a.a.]

GRS 530

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 241549Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1873 OF 24 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND BIS NEW YORK

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 830: FALKLANDS : U S PRESS EDITORIALS

FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL, TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST ALSO CARRIES AN EDITORIAL ABOUT THE FALKLANDS.

TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS :

BEGINS

WAR AIMS

SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG SUGGESTS THAT BRITAIN'S SUCCESSFUL LANDING ON THE FALKLANDS - PLUS THE SACRIFICES SUSTAINED BY BOTH SIDES - MAY MAKE ENOUGH OF A DIFFERENCE TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME. SURELY HE IS RIGHT. IN ITS BRIDGEHEAD AND

SUCCESSFUL LANDING ON THE FALKLANDS - PLUS THE SACRIFICES SUSTAINED BY BOTH SIDES - MAY MAKE ENOUGH OF A DIFFERENCE TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME. SURELY HE IS RIGHT. IN ITS BRIDGEHEAD AND IN ITS EVIDENT CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN OPERATIONS ASHORE, BRITAIN HAS SOMETHING REAL TO CONVERT INTO POLITICAL COIN. ARGENTINA MAY HOPE TO RAISE THE COST TO THE BRITISH AND LIMIT THEIR MILITARY GAINS, BUT IT CANNOT EXPECT TO BOOT THEM OFF THE ISLANDS AGAIN. THE 40 ISOLATED MARINES IT SWEEPED UP ON APRIL 2 ARE ONE THING: THE 5,000 TROOPS ASHORE, WITH THEIR FLEET PROTECTION, ARE QUITE ANOTHER.

MR HAIG TOLD CBS YESTERDAY THAT WHAT HELP ARGENTINA IS GETTING FROM ITS LATIN FRIENDS DID NOT YET AMOUNT TO MUCH AND THAT HE ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE ARGENTINA'S WORD THAT IT IS NOT RECEIVING SOVIET ASSISTANCE. IT RUNS COUNTER TO JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING KNOWN ABOUT THE ARGENTINE JUNTA AND ARGENTINE PRIDE, HOWEVER, TO ASSUME THAT BUENOS AIRES WOULD FORGO AVAILABLE OUTSIDE AID IF IT FELT IT WERE FACING HUMILIATION IN ITS QUOTE MALVINAS UNQUOTE CAMPAIGN. PERU, FOR ONE, COULD HELP ON ONE LEVEL, THE SOVIET UNION ON ANOTHER. THAT COULD COMPLICATE THE CURRENT DETERMINATION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, IN BACKING THE BRITISH, TO AVOID QUOTE ANOTHER SUEZ UNQUOTE. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER UNDERCUT HIS BRITISH AND FRENCH ALLIES WHEN THEY INVADED SUEZ IN 1956.

IN THAT CONNECTION, WE MUST ASK AGAIN: JUST WHAT IS BRITAIN FIGHTING FOR? MRS. THATCHER HAS MADE CLEAR THE PRINCIPLE, OR THE COLLECTION OF PRINCIPLES - DEMOCRACY, SELF DETERMINATION, RESISTANCE TO AGGRESSION - BUT NOT THE INTEREST, NOR THE PARTICULAR OUTCOME, IT WISHES TO SEE IN THE FALKLANDS. HER FOREIGN SECRETARY, FRANCIS PYM, COULD HAVE CLARIFIED THIS MATTER YESTERDAY, ON ABC, BUT DID NOT. THE LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE AFTER BRITISH TROOPS QUOTE REPOSSESS UNQUOTE THE ISLANDS, HE SAID, ARE QUOTE UNCERTAIN. UNQUOTE THERE WILL BE A BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE SHORT RUN AND, IN THE LONG, QUOTE BROADER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. UNQUOTE LONDON WILL CONSULT WITH THE ISLANDERS AND WILL TALK WITH QUOTE MANY NATIONS UNQUOTE - HE DID NOT CITE ARGENTINA - ABOUT QUOTE SOME PATTERN OF DEFENSE. UNQUOTE MR. PYM APOLOGIZED A BIT FOR NOT BEING SPECIFIC. QUOTE HOW CAN I BE? UNQUOTE HE ASKED.

IN ALL DUE RESPECT TO AN ALLY UNDER DURESS, WE MUST ASK: HOW CAN HE NOT BE? DOES THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT EXPECT TO RETAIN THE SUPPORT IT NOW ENJOYS FOR WAR AIMS IT HAS YET TO DEFINE? DOES IT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY ULTIMATE WAY TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS WITHOUT CONSULTING THE ARGENTINES DIRECTLY? IT WAS, AFTER ALL, INATTENTION TO THE ARGENTINE INTEREST AND THE ARGENTINE PASSION IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT GOT MRS. THATCHER INTO THE SITUATION SHE IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO REDEEM BY ARMS. SHE HAS RIGHT AND REASON TO OPPOSE ARGENTINE AGGRESSION BUT, NOW THAT SHE IS FIGHTING, SHE CANNOT IGNORE THE CENTRAL POLITICAL REALITY. THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE OTHER

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NATION WITH WHICH BRITAIN MUST WORK OUT THE FATE OF THE ISLANDS -
ARGENTINA. THE SOONER THAT PROCESS CAN RESUME, THE FEWER MEN WILL
DIE.

ENDS

HENDERSON

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