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FM WASHINGTON 242328Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1881 OF 24 MAY

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS (~~FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY~~)

UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 1878 ; FALKLANDS

1. HAIG HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME AGAIN EVIDENTLY IN AN EASIER FRAME OF MIND. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN REFLECTING ON OUR CONVERSATION AND HAD ALSO HAD A CHAT WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE LATTER, HE ASSURED ME, WAS QUOTE VERY SOLID, MORE SO THAN THOSE AROUND HIM. THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH HIM. UNQUOTE HOWEVER HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO BE CAUGHT UNAWARES AT THE KEY MOMENT. HE SAW A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY AT THE MOMENT WHICH HE THOUGHT SOMEONE SHOULD FILL BECAUSE OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE A VACUUM TAKEN OVER BY THE FORCES OF EVIL. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR LONDON TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

2. HE INTERJECTED THAT HE HAD SENT AN EXTREMELY TOUGH MESSAGE TO HAVANA TO WARN THEM OFF FROM ANY QUOTE BARKY PANKY UNQUOTE AND A MORE DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE TO THE OTHER PARTY (BY WHICH I PRESUME HE MEANT THE SOVIET UNION).

3. HE WAS NOW PROPOSING TO SEND YOU A PERSONAL MESSAGE THIS EVENING, BUT HE WOULD NOT BE PUTTING ANYTHING FORWARD THAT WOULD BE DISTURBING TO YOU. HIS AIM WAS TO HOLD OUT THE PROSPECT FOR A POSITIVE MOVE AND TO KEEP BRAZIL FROM BEING DISTRACTED TO THE WRONG SIDE.

4. I TOLD HIM THAT MY REPORTS OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM TODAY AND SATURDAY WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN DISTURBING TO LONDON. HE SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN TALKING VERY FRANKLY AND HE WOULD BE MORE SUBTLE IN THE MESSAGE HE SENT YOU.

5. HAVING JUST SEEN ZABLOCKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, I TOLD HAIG THAT HE HAD INDICATED NO SENSE OF DISQUIET ON THE HILL ABOUT BRITISH ACTIVITIES AND THE US GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO THEM. ZABLOCKI HAD ADMITTED THAT AMERICA MIGHT NOT DO WELL OUT OF THE WHOLE BUSINESS BUT US OPINION WAS STRONGLY BEHIND BRITAIN. HAD WE NOT TAKEN THE ACTION WE HAVE DONE THIS WOULD HAVE SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FROM WHICH EVERY COUNTRY MIGHT SUFFER. HAIG SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT THIS HAD BEEN ZABLOCKI'S ATTITUDE. HE DID NOT REPEAT TO ME THE WARNINGS HE HAD GIVEN ME ON SATURDAY ABOUT MURMURINGS ON THE HILL.

HENDERSON

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