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DESKBY 251130Z

FM FCO 250842Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE BOGOTA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 108 OF 25 MAY 1982

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

25 MAY 1982

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ACTION

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TURBAY

1. PLEASE DELIVER, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS:

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE OF 21 MAY ABOUT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE HAVE BEEN MUCH AWARE IN RECENT WEEKS OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH WHICH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE ADOPTED TOWARDS THIS TRAGIC SITUATION.

I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH YOU THAT IT SHOULD BE FOR DEMOCRATIC NATIONS TO SET THE WORLD AN EXAMPLE, BY THE PATIENCE WITH WHICH THEY PURSUE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND BY THEIR RELUCTANCE TO RESORT TO MILITARY FORCE. I AM SURE YOU WILL RECOGNISE THAT IN THE SEVEN WEEKS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH WE HAVE ENGAGED IN GOOD FAITH SINCE ARGENTINA INVADED BRITISH TERRITORY, WE HAVE SHOWN THE GREATEST PATIENCE, AS WELL AS THE UTMOST OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND FLEXIBILITY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THESE ARE PRINCIPLES WHICH BRITAIN AND COLOMBIA, AS DEMOCRATIC NATIONS, SHARE.

THE DIFFICULTY THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN ARGENTINA'S REFUSAL TO MATCH OUR CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. PRESIDENT GALTIERI AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE REJECTED EVERY PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN PUT TO THEM WHICH WOULD HAVE LED TO A CEASEFIRE COUPLED WITH A WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES, AS REQUIRED BY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502. WE LOOKED CLOSELY AND URGENTLY AT PRESIDENT BELAUNDE'S RECENT PROPOSALS, WHICH YOU MENTION, AND I REMAIN GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT BELAUNDE FOR HIS CONTINUED CONCERN AND ACTIVE INTEREST.

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WORLD WHICH IT WOULD BE HARD TO EXAGGERATE.

YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS

PYM