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25 MAY 1982



CONFIDENTIAL

FM LIMA 252055Z MAY 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 198 OF 25 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON BOGOTA

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT TURBAY OF COLOMBIA HAD TELPHONED TO SAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO HIS LETTER (YOUR TELNO 107 TO BOGOTA) IN WHICH PRESIDENT TURBAY SAID HE SUPPORTED THE PERUVIAN PEACE PROPOSALS. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT BELAUNDE, TURBAY TOLD HIM THAT MRS THATCHER'S REPLY WAS RECEPTIVE, APPRECIATIVE AND COURTEOUS WHILE MAKING THE GENERAL RESERVATION ABOUT RESOLUTION 502. AS A RESULT, BOTH PRESIDENTS (WHO HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION AT LENGTH ON THE TELEPHONE) HAD DECIDED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE FINAL CONFRONTATION ON THE ISLANDS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A QUOTE DOUBLE HOLOCAUST UNQUOTE WHICH WOULD LEAVE EVERYBODY WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE. THEY HAD AGREED THAT ALL THEIR EFFORTS SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO THIS END. IN THIS CONTEXT PRESIDENT BELAUNDE SAID THAT COSTA MENDEZ HAD ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH TO SAY THAT THE ARGENTINES HAD NO OBJECTION TO A CEASEFIRE WITHOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH FORCES FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS.

2. THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT TURBAY HAD DECIDED TO TELEPHONE THE PRIME MINISTER IN LONDON IN ORDER TO PUT THESE SUGGESTIONS TO HER AND PRESIDENT BELAUNDE WANTED HE TO KNOW THAT HE HAD AUTHORISED PRESIDENT TURBAY ALSO TO SPEAK IN HIS NAME AND THAT HE WISHED TO BE ASSOCIATED IN EVERY WAY WITH PRESIDENT TURBAY'S APPEALS. BELAUNDE HAD ALSO SUGGESTED TO TURBAY THAT HE SHOULD TRY (IF THERE WAS TIME) TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL WHO WOULD THUS ALSO BE ASSOCIATED WITH TURBAY'S TELEPHONE CALL.

3. PRESIDENT BELAUNDE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID THE MEETING OF THE TIAR WHICH WAS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY WITH CONSEQUENCES WHICH WERE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WAS TO NEGOTIATE A CEASEFIRE BEFORE THEN.

WALLACE