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CONFIDENTIAL

FM PANAMA CITY 251810Z MAY
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 25 MAY
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

ACTION

UKMIS NEW YORK TEL NO 838 TO YOU: ILLUECA'S REMARKS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

1. ILLUECA'S OFFENSIVE PERSONAL REMARKS ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER HAVE BEEN WIDELY CRITICISED HERE NOT ONLY, AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, BY THE OPPOSITION AND BY WOMEN COMMENTATORS, BUT ALSO IN THE GOVERNMENT PRESS. WRITING IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED 'MATUTINO' HARMODIO IGAZA (WHO SUPPORTS THE ARGENTINE CASE AND WHO LED CRITICISM OF THE PRIORITY PASSAGE OF BRITISH FLEET AUXILIARIES THROUGH THE CANAL) DESCRIBES ILLUECA'S PERFORMANCE AS QUOTE THE GREATEST DIPLOMATIC ERROR IN OUR HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UNQUOTE AND SAYS THAT ANY OTHER COUNTRY WOULD QUOTE HAVE NAMED A REPLACEMENT OPEN SQUARE BRACKETS FOR ILLUECA CLOSE SQUARE BRACKETS IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS.

2. THE GENERAL REACTION IS THUS ONE OF DISGUST. ILLUECA MAY FINALLY HAVE COOKED HIS OWN GOOSE.

FCO PLEASE PASS UKMIS NEW YORK

STEPHENSON

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