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TO FLASH ASUNCION

TELEGRAM NUMBER 68 OF 26 MAY

AND FLASH TO BOGOTA, QUITO, LIMA, LA PAZ, SANTIAGO, BRASILIA, MEXICO CITY, MONTEVIDEO, TEGUCIGALPA, CARACAS, SAN JOSE, PORT OF SPAIN, SANTO DOMINGO

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, PANAMA CITY, HAVANA, BRIDGETOWN, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN

FALKLAND ISLANDS: RIO TREATY MEETING: 27 MAY

1. WHILE OUR LOBBYING OF LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING OF RIO TREATY SIGNATORIES IN WASHINGTON ON 27 MAY NEEDS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF LATIN AMERICAN SENSITIVITIES, WE SHOULD DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE THE MODERATES AND TO PUT OUR CASE ACROSS. PLEASE THEREFORE SPEAK AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL, PREFERABLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, ON THE FOLLOWING LINES (WITH DISCRETION TO DRAW ON THOSE POINTS WHICH CAN, IN YOUR VIEW, BE MOST SUITABLY DEPLOYED IN YOUR LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES).

2. YOU MAY SAY, MAKING CLEAR THAT YOU ARE SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, THAT WE FULLY SHARE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE FALKLANDS. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE CONFLICT IS NOT OF OUR CHOOSING. THE ARGENTINE INVASION INTERRUPTED A SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT RESOLVING THE DISPUTE OVER THE FALKLANDS PEACEFULLY. OVER SEVEN WEEKS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION 502 CALLING FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES. SINCE THEN WE HAVE PARTICIPATED FULLY AND POSITIVELY IN THE MANY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THE BRITISH DRAFT INTERIM AGREEMENT (GUIDANCE TELNO 86) CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED OUR DETERMINATION TO FIND A BASIS FOR AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE BROUGHT THE CONFLICT IMMEDIATELY TO AN END. BUT ARGENTINA REJECTED THIS AND HAS THROUGHOUT REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 502. WE HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT, RELUCTANTLY, TO INCREASE THE MILITARY PRESSURES TO END THEIR ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF BRITISH TERRITORY. OUR MILITARY AIMS ARE LIMITED AND WE CONTINUE TO HOPE



THAT THERE CAN BE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE ARGENTINE POSITION.

3. THE FACT REMAINS THAT ARGENTINA IS THE AGGRESSOR AND THE UK IS THE VICTIM. THIS ESSENTIAL POINT MUST NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF. OUR RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE IS CLEAR. COSTA MENDEZ IS REPORTEDLY TAKING THE LINE (LIMA TELNO 198 NOT TO ALL) THAT ARGENTINA HAS NO OBJECTION TO A CEASEFIRE LEAVING BRITISH FORCES IN THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS. IF THIS IS RAISED WITH YOU, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT IT MISSES THE POINT. IT IS ARGENTINA AS THE AGGRESSOR WHICH IS OBLIGED TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCR 502.

4. YOU SHOULD GO ON TO SAY THAT OUR QUARREL IS WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, NOT WITH THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE. INDEED, OUR SYMPATHY LIES WITH THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S DISASTROUS DECISION TO INVADE THE ISLANDS. WE HAVE HAD NO DISPUTE WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA. WE UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE CRISIS CAUSES FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. IT IS OUR PROFOUND HOPE THAT IT CAN BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND WITHOUT DAMAGE TO OUR LONGSTANDING AND FRIENDLY TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA, TO WHICH GREATEST IMPORTANCE AND WHICH WE WISH TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE ROOM WHICH THIS CONFLICT HAS GIVEN FOR MISCHIEF-MAKING BY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NO TRADITIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF LATIN AMERICA: IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTERESTS THAT THIS BILATERAL DISPUTE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WIDEN IN SCOPE.

5. A DECISION BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE ACTION AFFECTING THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UK WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT NONE WILL BE TAKEN. IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF DEEP REGRET FOR US IF OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES WERE TO BE SET BACK IN THIS WAY.

6. THE BASIC ISSUE IS SELF-DETERMINATION NOT COLONIALISM (EXCEPT ON THE PART OF ARGENTINA, SEE BELOW). ANY APPARENT ENDORSEMENT FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES BY FORCE WOULD HAVE DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS BOTH FOR THE REGION AND ELSEWHERE. OUR RECORD OF DECOLONISATION SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. WE TAKE PRIDE IN THE PART WE PLAYED IN ASSISTING INDEPENDENCE IN



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LATIN AMERICA. WE HAVE OURSELVES BROUGHT OVER 40 COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO INDEPENDENCE (ZIMBABWE AND BELIZE ARE RECENT EXAMPLES). IT IS THE ARGENTINES WHO ARE SEEKING TO COLONISE THE ISLANDS AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE INHABITANTS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE ISLANDERS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

7. ON ECONOMIC MEASURES YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LINE IN PARA 5(C) OF MY TELNO 81 TO BRASILIA.

8. PLEASE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR US COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO UNDERTAKE ENERGETIC LOBBYING IN ORDER TO LIMIT DAMAGE FROM THE RIO TREATY MEETING TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA.

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