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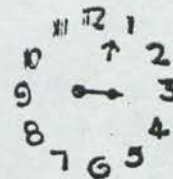
FM WASHINGTON 260120Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1902 OF 25 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

26 MAY 1982



FALKLANDS:

1. NBC TELEVISION REUTERS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS HAVE THIS EVENING CARRIED STORIES REPORTING THAT HAIG HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO YOU URGING BRITAIN NOT TO TRY TO CRUSH THE ARGENTINIANS IN THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, ATTRIBUTED TO AN UN-NAMED SENIOR OFFICIAL, HAIG HAD URGED US TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT WE HAD TO GAIN FROM AN OUTRIGHT VICTORY AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT A CRUSHING VICTORY WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF EITHER THE UK OR THE US. THE ARGENTINIANS WOULD LOOK FOR A SCAPEGOAT AND THAT SCAPEGOAT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE UNITED STATES WHOSE RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA, AND WITH LATIN AMERICA GENERALLY WOULD SUFFER. A CEASEFIRE, WHICH COULD ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO CLAIM VICTORY, MIGHT BE THE BEST OUTCOME.
2. THIS IS A GARBLED AND SLANTED ACCOUNT OF HAIG'S MESSAGE TO YOU. I HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS STORY BUT HIS OFFICE SAY THAT HE IS UPSET ABOUT IT AND REGARDS IT AS VERY DAMAGING.
3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE REFUSING ALL COMMENT TO THE PRESS. WE WILL REFUSE TO COMMENT ON THIS STORY, BUT WILL SAY THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE US POSITION AND NO DIMINUTION OF US SUPPORT FOR US. OF COURSE, WE ARE ALL LOOKING TO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR AIM, WHICH REMAINS, AS IT HAS BEEN ALL ALONG, TO REMOVE THE ARGENTINIANS FROM THE FALKLANDS.

HENDERSON