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IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 214 OF 27 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE BOGOTA, LIMA, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

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ACTION

YOUR TELNO 109 TO BOGOTA:

FALKLAND ISLANDS: PRESIDENT TURBAY'S INITIATIVE

1. HEAD OF THE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT AT ITAMARATY WAS TAKEN ABACK WHEN I INFORMED HIM OF THE ORAL MESSAGE DELIVERED TO YOU BY THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR, PURPORTING TO BE ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENTS OF COLOMBIA, BRAZIL AND PERU. RICUPERO SAID THAT, FAR FROM APPROVING THE COLOMBIAN TEXT, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NOT EVEN RECEIVED IT UNTIL THIS MORNING. A PRELIMINARY STUDY DID NOT LEAD THEM TO THINK THAT IT WOULD GET FAR, NOR DID THEY THINK IT USEFUL TO DRAW THIS RED HERRING ACROSS THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PATH.

2. RICUPERO SAID THAT PRESIDENT TURBAY HAD IN FACT TWICE TELEPHONED PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO SEEKING SUPPORT FOR AN UNSPECIFIED INITIATIVE. ON THE FIRST OCCASION FIGUEIREDO HAD EXPRESSED GENERAL SENTIMENTS IN FAVOUR OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. ON THE SECOND, HE HAD ASKED FOR CONCRETE COLOMBIAN PROPOSALS, WHICH HE HAD NOT YET SEEN, LET ALONE ENDORSED. TURBAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO TRY TO ENLIST FIGUEIREDO'S SUPPORT BY THE EXCELLENT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD SPRUNG UP BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS IN THE COURSE OF TURBAY'S STATE VISIT TO BRAZIL EARLIER THIS YEAR. IT COULD WELL BE THAT TURBAY ALSO HAD IT IN MIND THAT FIGUEIREDO MIGHT TALK TO GALTIERI (AS PART OF THE QUOTE PRESSURES UNQUOTE ENVISAGED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF TUR): BUT FIGUEIREDO HAD GIVEN NO SUCH UNDERTAKING. MOREOVER, TURBAY'S ACTION IN LEAKING TO THE PRESS HIS TELEPHONE CALLS WITH FIGUEIREDO WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING THE LATTER COULD HARDLY HELP MATTERS. RICUPERO SPECULATED THAT POSSIBLY THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS DUE THIS WEEKEND HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH TURBAY'S SUDDEN ACTIVITY ON THE FALKLANDS FRONT.

3. RICUPERO WAS MOST GRATEFUL THAT WE HAD TAKEN UP THIS MATTER SO QUICKLY WITH THE ITAMARATY. I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT, IF THE BRAZILIANS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, WE SHALL HEAR LITTLE MORE OF THIS HALF-BAKED PROPOSAL.

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