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EMERGENCY ROOM
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MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR }
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SIR R ARMSTRONG }
SIR K PALLISER } CABINET
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Mrs. Dickson, D/ENERGY

[Passed to E.R.]

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1957 OF 29 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND OAS POSTS

MY TELNO 1941

FALKLANDS: RIO TREATY.

1. SUMMARY. THE RIO TREATY MEETING ADOPTED A HARSH RESOLUTION AT 0230 LOCAL THIS MORNING 29 MAY. INTER ALIA, THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNS THE UK, CALLS ON THE US TO CEASE SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN AND SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA, AND INVITES EACH RIO SIGNATORY TO ASSIST ARGENTINA IN ITS OWN WAY OR COLLECTIVELY (FULL TEXT IN MIFT). THE VOTE, WHICH REPEATED THAT ON THE RESOLUTION OF 28 APRIL, WAS 17-0-4 (US, TRINIDAD, CHILE AND COLOMBIA).

2. DETAIL. EARLY ON 28 MAY SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHICH HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THURSDAY'S FIESTA OF ANTI-AMERICANISM MADE SUBDUED STATEMENTS. THESE INCLUDED ECUADOR, PARAGUAY, HAITI AND EL SALVADOR, WHOSE

EVEN-HANDED SPEECH WAS UNIQUELY APPLAUDED BY BOTH ARGENTINE AND AMERICAN DELEGATES. MEXICO, BRAZIL AND CHILE REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT.

3. A CLOSED DRAFTING GROUP MET ALL DAY AND NIGHT TO PREPARE THE FINAL RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS IN SOME WAYS TOUGHER THAN THE ORIGINAL ARGENTINE DRAFT WHEN IT FINALLY EMERGED. WE GATHER THAT VENEZUELA WAS OUTSPOKENLY ASSERTIVE THROUGHOUT THE MEETING; REASONABLE DRAFTS FROM COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA WERE SWEEP ASIDE. THE MEXICANS AND BRAZILIANS, WHO PLAYED A MODERATING ROLE AT THE LAST MEETING, SEEM TO HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT THIS TIME ROUND. THE AMERICANS WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY ROUTED, ALTHOUGH THEY TOOK SOME CONSOLATION IN THE REMOVAL OF A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ACTION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE RIO TREATY IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 7. THE COLOMBIANS MANAGED TO SMUGGLE IN REFERENCE TO THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.

4. EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE WERE PREDICTABLE; COSTA MENDEZ DENOUNCED AGAIN THE US AND UK WHILE INSISTING THAT ARGENTINA REMAINED, AS ALWAYS, READY TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE DISPUTE WHICH TOOK DUE REGARD OF ITS INALIENABLE RIGHTS. THE AMERICAN DELEGATE COMPLAINED THAT THE RESOLUTION TOOK NO ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH CASE OR OF THE MANDATORY TERMS OF UNSCR 502; THE US WOULD LIFT ITS SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA WHEN 502 WAS IMPLEMENTED. HE ADDED THAT THE US WAS PLEASED THAT THE RESOLUTION AVOIDED LANGUAGE WHICH SOUGHT TO MAKE ITS OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS MANDATORY (AN INTERPRETATION NOT SHARED BY SOME OTHER DELEGATIONS). THE BRAZILIAN AND ESPECIALLY THE MEXICAN MADE POISONOUS EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE SHOWING A PARTIALITY NOT FULLY REFLECTED IN THEIR GOVERNMENT'S STATED POSITIONS. CHILE SAID MYSTERIOUSLY THAT SHE HAD ABSTAINED FOR JURIDICAL REASONS.

5. COMMENT. THIS IS A MISERABLE RESOLUTION; IT TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF THE FACTS AND OBVIOUSLY DOES NOTHING TO HELP A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IT IS PRESUMABLY A SIGN OF THE EMOTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA THAT SO MANY OTHERWISE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE SUPPORTED IT. SOME DELEGATES ARGUED PRIVATELY THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT SINCE THOSE WHO WISHED TO SUPPORT ARGENTINA NEEDED NO ENDORSEMENT FROM THE RIO TREATY, WHILE NEITHER THE UK NOR THE US WOULD CHANGE THEIR POLICIES BECAUSE OF SUCH NONSENSE. (WE VIGOROUSLY CONFIRMED THIS). HOWEVER IT IS POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF RHETORIC AT THE MEETING, THAT ARGENTINA WILL IMAGINE THAT AS A STATEMENT OF LATIN SOLIDARITY IT REPRESENTS GREATER REAL SUPPORT THAN MAY REALLY EXIST; IF SO, THE RESOLUTION COULD HAVE THE UNWEL-

COME EFFECT OF HARDENING THE ARGENTINE NEGOTIATING POSITION.

6. THIS WAS A DIFFICULT MEETING FOR THE AMERICANS: THE OUTPOURING OF LATENT RESENTMENT AGAINST THE GINGO WHICH US SUPPORT FOR THE UK HAS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE THREATENED THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM TO WHICH SO MUCH IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN ATTACHED BY THIS ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER HAIG STOOD ADMIRABLY FIRM, AND AS THE MEETING CLOSED EARLY THIS MORNING, SPECULATION ABOUT THE IMMIRENT COLLAPSE OF THE RIO TREATY SEEMED NOTICEABLY MORE SUBDUED. THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT, ONCE AGAIN, THE LATINs HAVE MOUNTED AN ELABORATE SIDESHOW IN WHICH MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS RECOGNIZE THAT WHILE THEIR PERFORMANCE MAKES THEM FEEL BETTER, IT HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH THE REAL ISSUES AT STAKE.

HENDERSON

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