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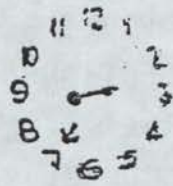
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NYFO 004/29

28 MAY 1982

OO FCO



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CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 290020Z MAY 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 887 OF 28 MAY
 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 884: FALKLANDS

1. I HAVE BEEN REFLECTING ON THE LIKELY EFFECT OF THE TAKING OF GOOSE GREEN AND DARWIN ON DEVELOPMENTS HERE.
2. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT, IF THE ARGENTINES THINK THAT AN EARLY COLLAPSE OF ALL THEIR FORCES IN THE FALKLANDS IS IMMINENT, THEY MIGHT (COSTA MENDEZ STILL BEING IN WASHINGTON) PRESS PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO ADMIT IMMEDIATE FAILURE AND TO CALL THE COUNCIL OVER THE WEEKEND WITH A VIEW TO GETTING AN IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL DEMAND FOR A CEASEFIRE. IF THEY ARGUED THAT FURTHER DELAY ON HIS PART, IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE IRRECONCILABLE NATURE OF OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, MEANT THAT HE WAS CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY ABETTING OUR MILITARY OPERATIONS, HE WOULD FIND IT HARD TO HOLD OUT.
3. AS OF NOW (FRIDAY EVENING) IT SEEMS MORE PROBABLE THAT WE SHALL BE IN THE COUNCIL ON 31 MAY AT THE EARLIEST, MORE LIKELY ON 1 JUNE, WITH A QUICK VOTE IN PROSPECT. ~~AGAIN THE MILITARY SITUATION WILL BE RELEVANT BUT, WHATEVER IT IS AT THE TIME, IT LOOKS TO ME AS THOUGH IT WILL LEAD TO THE SAME RESULT - A SIMPLE CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN SITU TO BE MONITORED BY THE UN. IF IT APPEARS THAT WE ARE POISED TO TAKE STANLEY, THE MOTIVATION WILL BE TO AVOID TOTAL HUMILIATION FOR ARGENTINA. IF A BATTLE IS IN PROGRESS, THE MOTIVATION WILL BE HUMANITARIAN. IF THERE IS A LULL, THE CEASEFIRE CALL MIGHT WELL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS SUCH AS IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL~~

JUNE, WITH A QUICK VOTE IN PROSPECT. AGAIN THE MILITARY SITUATION WILL BE RELEVANT BUT, WHATEVER IT IS AT THE TIME, IT LOOKS TO ME AS THOUGH IT WILL LEAD TO THE SAME RESULT - A SIMPLE CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN SITU TO BE MONITORED BY THE UN. IF IT APPEARS THAT WE ARE POISED TO TAKE STANLEY, THE MOTIVATION WILL BE TO AVOID TOTAL HUMILIATION FOR ARGENTINA. IF A BATTLE IS IN PROGRESS, THE MOTIVATION WILL BE HUMANITARIAN. IF THERE IS A LULL, THE CEASEFIRE CALL MIGHT WELL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS SUCH AS IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL, OF AN INTERIM UN ADMINISTRATION AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR A DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT, IE THE MIXTURE AS BEFORE 20 MAY OR SOMETHING LIKE IT.

4. FOR THE MOMENT IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO SPECULATE FURTHER EVEN ON THE WORDING OF RESOLUTIONS WHICH WE MAY HAVE TO FACE NEXT WEEK. IF THEY INVOLVE UNADORNED CALLS FOR A CEASEFIRE IT WILL BE A WASTE OF TIME LOBBYING ANY COUNCIL MEMBERS, EXCEPT THE US AND FRANCE, TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION. AS I HAVE ALREADY REPORTED, IT WILL BE VERY HARD TO KEEP EITHER OR BOTH WITH US. BEYOND THE US AND FRANCE, IT MIGHT JUST BE WORTH THE PRIME MINISTER MAKING A PERSONAL APPEAL TO BURNHAM TO KEEP GUYANA ONLY ONE VOTE AWAY FROM US (IE TO ABSTAIN) IF THE TEXT WAS MANIFESTLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE AFRICANS, JORDAN, JAPAN, IRELAND AND SPAIN WOULD PROBABLY BE CO-SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION.

PARSONS

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