CONFIDENTIAL COVERING SECRET

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION) : 0700 HOURS, 31 MAY 1982

United Nations

There have been no overnight developments in New York.

York telno. C (FCO telno New York)

A (FCO telno. 2. Instructions were sent to Sir A Parsons to tell Perez New York) unacceptable. The British position remains as set out in the B (UKMIS New Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary). 484 to UKMIS de Cuellar that the Argentine terms for a ceasefire are quite Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's message of 27 May, which HMG would prefer Perez de Cuellar to paraphrase rather than publish when, as seems inevitable, he has to report failure to the Security Council. On international security arrangements, 475 to UKMIS HMG would prefer them to be outside the UN, but Sir A Parsons is instructed simply to tell Perez de Cuellar that HMG do not exclude UN coordination.

D (UKMIS New York telno. 894)

3. Sir A Parsons has replied that it would be better to have something which could be published setting on record the British view. This could best take the form of a new message from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to Perez de Cuellar setting out the British position on acceptable terms for a ceasefire, taking into account the Argentine position. If this is agreed he would require such a message by 1400Z on 31 May.

Haig's Ideas

1088 to Washington)

E (FCO telno. 4. HM Ambassador in Washington was informed that Haig's ideas are being carefully studied, but a full response is unlikely before 1 June.

telno.1969)

F (Washington 5. Haig has commissioned a study of possible US help in providing food and medicine for the Argentine prisoners as well as in repatriating them after the fighting is over. This would be part of an international effort, although the US would bear the brunt. The plan would be designed to mend fences with the Argentinians and other Latin Americans as well as to offer practical help to the UK.

telno.1968)

G (Washington 6. President Reagan and Mr Haig would like to have a private talk with the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in the context of the Versailles Summit. They suggest meeting from 1500 to 1630 on Friday, 4 June.

Comment

Action arising from overnight developments is required on Sir A Parsons' suggestion of a new statement for the public record of our position on a ceasefire.

31 May 1982

R/M Jackson Emergency Unit