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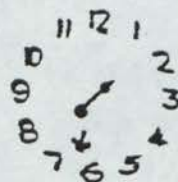
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CONFIDENTIAL

FM CARACAS #71615Z JUNE 82

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 200 OF 7 JUNE



YOUR TELNO 104 : FALKLAND ISLANDS AND MY SUCCESSOR

1. MY TEL NO 196 GAVE ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT VENEZUELAN ATTITUDES AS FALKLANDS SITUATION DRAGS ON. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND WE NEED TO DECIDE TACTICS ON ACCREDITATION.
2. I RECOMMEND NORMAL ROUTINE APPROACH TOPROTOCOL THIS WEEK GIVING TRAVEL DETAILS FOR ARRIVAL OF MY SUCCESSOR ON 26 JUNE AND ASKING FOR NORMAL COURTESIES. THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT INEFFECTIVE PROTOCOL WILL TREAT THIS AS PURE ROUTINE FOLLOWING IN AGREEMENT ALREADY GIVEN AND WILL NOT SUBMIT QUESTION FOR POLITICAL CONSIDERATION . MR CARLESS WILL THEN RISK DELAY OF SEVERAL WEEKS FOR ACCREDIATION IF VENEZUELAN DECIDE TO BE AWKWARD, BUT THEY COULD HARDLY REFUSE THIS ONCE OTHER AMBASSADORS DESIGNATE JOINED QUEUE.THERE WILL BE SEVERAL IN THIS POSITION OVER THE SUMMER, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS.
3. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT ROUTINE APPROACH WILL BE CONSIDERED POLITICALLY, BUT EVEN THEN THERE MAY NOT BE NEGATIVE REACTION: THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IS AFTER ALL STILL OPERATING IN LONDON. IF THERE IS, THEN WE MUST THINK AGAIN, BUT MR CARLESS CANNOT JUST SLIP IN WITHOUT WARNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROTOCOL.
4. ALTERNATIVE APPROACH OF POSITIVELY SMOKING OUT THE VENEZUELAN ON ACCREDITATION, WHILE NEATER IN SHOWING EXACTLY WHERE WE STAND, RUNS OBVIOUS RISKS. VENEZUELAN ARE ADEPT AT TAKING EASY WAY OUT AND WOULD PROBABLY SUGGEST INFORMALLY THAT A DELAY IN ACCREDITATION

4. ALTERNATIVE APPROACH OF POSITIVELY SMOKING OUT THE VENEZUELAN'S ON ACCREDITATION, WHILE NEATER IN SHOWING EXACTLY WHERE WE STAND, RUNS OBVIOUS RISKS. VENEZUELAN'S ARE ADEPT AT TAKING EASY WAY OUT AND WOULD PROBABLY SUGGEST INFORMALLY THAT A DELAY IN ACCREDITATION MIGHT AVOID POLITICAL CONTROVERSY AND BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. ONCE WE GOT INTO THAT NEGATIVE POSITION, THEY COULD SPIN ACCREDITATION OUT FOR MONTHS WITHOUT ACTUALLY MAKING IT A POINT OF CONFRONTATION.

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