

CB BONN/FCO 010/09

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GPS 310
CONFIDENTIAL
FM BONN 091535Z JUNE 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 541 OF 09 JUNE
INFO SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON PARIS ROME AND CARACAS

FALKLANDS: GERMAN REPORTING

1. EDERER (MFA SOUTH AMERICA DEPT) BRIEFED US TODAY ABOUT THE VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF STATE, DR CORTERIER, TO VENEZUELA THIS WEEK (OUR TEL NO 486 TO FCO). HE SAID THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE ARGENTINE INVASION AND CONDEMNATION OF EC SANCTIONS HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED BY THE VISIT, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BECOME MORE RELAXED IN THE COURSE OF CORTERIER'S TALKS, AND BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO REMAIN IN TOUCH OVER THE FALKLANDS ISSUE. IN PURSUIT OF THIS THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD AGREED TO VISIT BONN IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.
 2. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN A STRONG AND EMOTIVE LINE WITH CORTERIER, CRITICISING THE QUOTE COLONIALIST PRESENCE OF FRANCE, BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS IN SOUTH AMERICA UNQUOTE, AND CLAIMING THAT NATO WAS ATTEMPTING TO CONSTRUCT A MAGINOT LINE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION IN SOUTH AMERICA, WHICH COULD RESULT IN THE USSR MAKING FURTHER HEADWAY.
 3. THE AD (DEMOCRATIC ACTION) PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE OTHER HAND HAD DISTANCED THEMSELVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT LINE. THEY HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFLICT WOULD FORCE ARGENTINA TO REINTRODUCE DEMOCRACY, AND HAD SAID THAT VENEZUELA'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN AND THE USA MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE FALKLANDS QUOTE PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF BRITAIN'S SUPPORT FOR GUYANA UNQUOTE.
 4. THE ODCA (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) HAD WELCOMED CORTERIER'S VISIT AS A MEANS OF KEEPING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN, AND HAD SAID THAT THE EC SHOULD SEND A MISSION TO VENEZUELA ONCE THE CONFLICT WAS OVER.
 5. EDERER COMMENTED THAT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT SAW CORTERIER'S TOUR AS A MEANS OF EMPHASISING THE CONTINUITY OF EUROPEAN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AMERICA, AND HOPED THAT OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD MAKE SIMILAR POLITICAL GESTURES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE ADDED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD ARRANGED TO MEET PEREZ DE CUELLAR IN THE MARGINS OF UNSSOD TO EXPLAIN THE FRG'S POSITION ON THE FALKLANDS.
- FCO PASS SAVING ABOVE

TAYLOR

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