

F0002/12

W F C O

ACTION COPY

E.R. / N

PP HOLY SEE

12 JUN 1982

GI 050

11 12 1
10 2
9 3
8 4
7 5

23c

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 120015Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 988 OF 11 JUNE 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON,

INFO PRIORITY HOLY SEE.

MY TELNO 975: FALKLANDS: POPE'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA.

1. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SENT ME WORD LATE ON THE EVENING OF 11 JUNE THAT, FOLLOWING A FURTHER TALK WITH CASAROLI AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE POPE'S INTEREST IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S VARIOUS EFFORTS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD DECIDED TO SEND DE SOTO TO BUENOS AIRES TODAY (11 JUNE). DE SOTO'S BRIEF WAS TO CONTACT THE CARDINAL ACCOMPANYING THE POPE AND TO GIVE HIM A FULL BRIEFING ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS OF 5 JUNE.

2. DE SOTO HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT (NOT) TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, BUT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HOPED THAT, THROUGH THE PAPAL PARTY, HE MIGHT OBTAIN SOME INDICATIONS OF THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF THE JUNTA.

3. THIS IS TIRESOME. IT IS NAIVE TO SUGGEST THAT DE SOTO WILL NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH ROS IN BUENOS AIRES AND IF HIS MISSION BECOMES PUBLIC IT WILL AROUSE EXPECTATIONS ABOUT A NEW INITIATIVE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. BUT DE SOTO WAS PRESENT AT THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE AND IS IN NO DOUBT ABOUT THE VIGOUR OF OUR OPPOSITION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS OF 5 JUNE, ABOUT WHICH I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE BLUNT. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT HE WILL NOT BE PARTY TO THE PREPERATION OF CEASEFIRE PROPOSALS ENDORSED BY THE POPE AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH THE ARGENTINES WOULD ACCEPT BUT WHICH WE WOULD HAVE TO REJECT.

4. I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS A DOUBLE-CROSS BY THE SECRETARY

SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS OF 5 JUNE, ABOUT WHICH I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE BLUNT. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT HE WILL NOT BE PARTY TO THE PREPERATION OF CEASEFIRE PROPOSALS ENDORSED BY THE POPE AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH THE ARGENTINES WOULD ACCEPT BUT WHICH WE WOULD HAVE TO REJECT.

4. I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS A DOUBLE-CROSS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. MY GUESS IS THAT DE SOTO WHO SEES THE POPE'S VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES AS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE ARGENTINES TO ACCEPT AN HONOURABLE WITHDRAWAL HAS PERSUADED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO LET HIM GO TO BUENOS AIRES IN THE HOPE OF BRINGING THIS OFF.

PARSONS

NNNN