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TO FLASH BERNE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 129 OF 18 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO,  
UKMIS GENEVA.

YOUR TELNO 177 (NOT TO ALL): FALKLANDS: CESSATION OF  
HOSTILITIES/REPATRIATION

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM UKMIS GENEVA TELNO 241 THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE NOW CONFIRMED AGREEMENT TO DIRECT REPATRIATION TO AN ARGENTINE MAINLAND PORT. THIS IS WELCOME MOVEMENT WHICH WE ARE FOLLOWING UP SEPARATELY AND ON WHICH FIRM ASSURANCES ON THE SAFE RETURN OF OUR SHIPS WILL BE ESSENTIAL.

2. WE NEED MEANWHILE TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINES TO AGREE THAT THERE IS NOW A TOTAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD URGE THE SWISS TO DO THIS WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN BUENOS AIRES. THE INDICATIONS OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION CONTINUE TO BE CONTRADICTIONARY. ON THE ONE HAND WE HAVE ROS'S HARD-LINE POSITION THAT A CEASEFIRE MUST BE LINKED TO RESUMED SOVEREIGNTY NEGOTIATIONS (YOUR TUR). ON THE OTHER, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT A MAJORITY AMONG THE MILITARY NOW FAVOUR A CEASEFIRE (AND HUGUENTOBLE'S COMMENT IN YOUR TELNO 176 WOULD SEEM TO SUPPORT THIS ASSESSMENT). WE HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE SWISS WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS ON THIS. WE APPRECIATE THAT A FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF A CEASEFIRE MAY BE DIFFICULT WHILE THE PRESENT INTERNAL POLITICAL FLUX CONTINUES. BUT WE CANNOT LEAVE THIS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT UNRESOLVED AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SECURE AT LEAST PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ARE READY TO ACCEPT THAT HOSTILITIES ARE AT AN END.

3. GRATEFUL ALSO IF THE SWISS COULD CONTINUE TO PRESS THE ARGENTINES FOR AN ANSWER ON GLOVER. WE ARE INTENDING TO REPATRIATE IMMEDIATELY OVER 5000 ARGENTINE PRISONERS AND IT IS THEREFORE RIGHT THAT THE ARGENTINES SHOULD SEND BACK THE SOLE

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BRITISH PRISONER WHICH THEY ARE HOLDING. ALSO HE IS INJURED: WE HAVE BEEN RETURNING ALL ARGENTINE CASUALTIES WITHOUT DELAY. COULD HE NOT BE REPATRIATED THROUGH MONTEVIDEO?

4. WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE SWISS CAN GO ON PRESSING ON THE THREE JOURNALISTS. WE REALISE THAT THEY ARE IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY TO POWS. BUT, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO REPATRIATE ARGENTINE SOLDIERS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCELERATE THE LEGAL PROCESS TO ALLOW THE JOURNALISTS' EARLY RELEASE.

5. FOR WASHINGTON. PLEASE KEEP THE AMERICANS INFORMED OF THE ACTION WE ARE TAKING THROUGH THE SWISS AND SEEK THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN BUENOS AIRES.

PYM