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OO UKREP BRUSSELS

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM COPENHAGEN 18/1315Z JUNE 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 169 OF 18 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

CCD(E) M

MY TELNO 165: FALKLANDS: EC IMPORT BAN

1. AT A LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY OF EC HEADS OF MISSION, POLITICAL DIRECTOR GAVE US DANISH THINKING IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENCY'S ENQUIRY ABOUT LIFTING THE BAN. IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT THEY SEE AS THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES DE FACTO ACCEPTANCE OF A GENERAL CEASE-FIRE AND OF THE UNCERTAIN POLITICAL SITUATION THERE, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT THINK A MOVE BY THE TEN TO LIFT THE BAN COULD HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE. MOREOVER, GIVEN THAT TWO MEMBERS ARE ALREADY NOT IMPLEMENTING THE BAN AND THREE OTHERS ARE READY TO LIFT IT, THE DANES CONSIDER MOVEMENT IS IN PROGRESS (AND THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE IT CLEAR THEY COULD NOT THEN STAND ASIDE). THEY THINK IT LIKELY THAT, ESPECIALLY GIVEN OUR POSITION, NO FORMAL POSITION WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE MINISTERS MEET ON SUNDAY. A DECISION THEN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION COULD BE IMPLEMENTED ON MONDAY.

2. IN REPLY TO DYVIG'S QUESTION, I SAID (AS BRIEFED BY TELEPHONE) THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING THE PRESIDENCY'S ENQUIRY BUT WOULD WANT MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION ON SUNDAY. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, I PUT ARGUMENTS TO SUGGEST THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION COULD PROVE PRECIPITATE, WITH UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS. DYVIG REPLIED THAT ONE ELEMENT IN GALTIERI'S DEPARTURE SEEMED TO BE THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THAT HOSTILITIES WERE CONCLUDED: A MOVE NOW COULD PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR HIS SUCCESSOR TO DO SO.

BARBURTON