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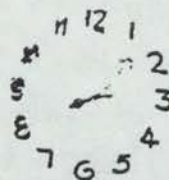
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1031 OF 19 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON



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MY TELS NOS 1024 AND 1025: FALKLANDS : SECURITY COUNCIL

1. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH COSTA MENDEZ'S PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS MAKING THE MOST OF THE ARGENTINE NOTE (FULL TEXT AS TRANSLATED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN M.I.F.T.) TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES (19 JUNE) CARRIES A LONGISH REPORT DATED BUENOS AIRES WHICH CONTAINS A LOT OF BRIEFING BY MFA OFFICIALS EG THE NOTE WAS MEANT TO BE CONCILIATORY IN CALLING FOR A UN ROLE AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HOSTILITIES ARE IN FACT OVER FOR THE TIME BEING; THE COUNTER DEMANDS WERE "TO KEEP A LITTLE DOOR OPEN SO THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN SOME SMALL PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH TO GIVE US THE ISLANDS BACK": IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ARGENTINE "TO GIVE IN AND COMPLETELY SAY THAT ALL IS LOST, BUT IN REALITY THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO MILITARY FOR THE TIME BEING" IF THE BRITISH "READ BETWEEN THE LINES, THEY WILL KNOW WHAT WE MEAN". OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE NOTE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE RULING THREE MAN JUNTA, INCLUDING GENERAL NICOLAIDES. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS SAID THAT IT WAS THE RESIGNATION OF GALTIERI THAT OPENED THE WAY FOR THE NOTE. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FAVOURED A RESUMPTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MISSION BECAUSE HE SEEMED FAIR AND WELL-VERSED IN THE ISSUES. ARGENTINA WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLANDS.

2. WHEN I FIRST READ THE NOTE I WAS STRUCK BY THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PARAS 10 AND 11 I.E. WERE THE ARGENTINES IN FACT SAYING THAT THEY WERE NOW READY FOR A FULL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (PARA 10), BUT THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BECOME A PERMANENT PEACE WHEN PARAS 11 AND 12 HAD BEEN FULFILLED? PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND I LOOKED AT THIS POINT TOGETHER BUT THOUGHT THAT IT DID NOT AMOUNT TO A SERIOUS OFFER OF AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. FIRST, IT WOULD BE LUDICROUS, EVEN BY ARGENTINE STANDARDS TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE BY CIRCULATING A DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN A ROUTINE SERIES WHICH HAS NOW TOPPED THE



IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE BY CIRCULATING A DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN A ROUTINE SERIES WHICH HAS NOW TOPPED THE HUNDRED MARK OVER THE PAST 2 AND HALF MONTHS. SECONDLY, LISTRE HAD MADE NO ATTEMPT TO MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH EITHER PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OR THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NOTE. IT HAD BEEN DELIVERED IN THE NORMAL WAY AS PART OF THE PAPER BOMBARDMENT WHICH THE ARGENTINES AND I HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING SINCE THE CRISIS BEGAN. WE CONCLUDED THAT THE NOTE WAS PROBABLY PROPAGANDA. BBC RADIO 4 INTERVIEWED ME ABOUT IT LATE LAST NIGHT: I WAS DISMISSIVE.

3. I AM RESOLVED NOT TO PURSUE THE QUESTION HERE AS THE ARGENTINES (AND FOR THAT MATTER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL) WOULD CLUTCH AT ANY STRAW TO MIRE US IN ANOTHER UN NEGOTIATION. BUT I THOUGHT THAT THE ABOVE MIGHT BE USEFUL TO YOU IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR FORTHCOMING MEETING IN BRUSSELS. PROVIDED THAT THEY WERE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR DETERMINATION NOT TO GET DRAWN INTO A FRESH NEGOTIATION WITH ARGENTINA THROUGH THE UN OR ANY OTHER AGENCY, THERE MIGHT BE NO HARM IN OUR PARTNERS, IF THEY WISHED, OR THE SWISS EXPLORING WITH THE ARGENTINES IF THERE IS IN FACT A SERIOUS MESSAGE IN PARA 10 OF THE NOTE REGARDING AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP ANY FOLLOW-UP AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.

PARSONS

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