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*Read in full.*

FM FCO 301758Z JUN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE MEXICO CITY  
TEL NO 550 OF 30 JUNE 1982  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK BRASILIA CARACAS  
BOGOTA QUITO LIMA SANTIAGO LA PAZ MONTEVIDEO ASUNCION  
PANAMA CITY SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA

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YOUR TELNO 506: FALKLANDS: CALL ON MR ONSLOW BY MEXICAN AMBASSADOR

1. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MR ONSLOW AT HIS OWN REQUEST ON 29 JUNE.

2. OLLOQUI SAID HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ASKED HIM TO DISCUS WITH HMG THE INITIATIVE ALREADY LAUNCHED BY CASTANEDA SEEKING LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE INSCRIPTION OF THE FALKLANDS ISSUE AS A SPECIAL ITEM IN THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ARTICLE 14 OF THE CHARTER. THE AIM WOULD BE TO SEEK UN ENDORSEMENT FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FALKLANDS UNDER UN AUSPICES.

3. MR ONSLOW THANKED OLLOQUI: THE MEXICANS CLEARLY WISHED TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. BUT HE DID NOT SEE HOW THIS NEW PROPOSAL WOULD HELP. FOLLOWING THE RECAPTURE OF THE ISLANDS THERE WERE IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH REQUIRED RESOLUTION. THIS WOULD TAKE TIME: BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT AT PRESENT THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE POSITIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY WERE ALMOST IRRECONCILABLE. THERE COULD BE NO NEGOTIATIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY UNLESS THE ISLANDERS WISHED IT AND IN VIEW OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO DO THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ALSO THE MOOD OF THE BRITISH NATION AND PARLIAMENT WAS FIRMLY AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS. PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD NOT JUST DIE AWAY WITH THE ENDING OF THE CONFLICT: IT WOULD CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. OF COURSE HMG WANTED TO REPAIR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND TO HELP BRING ABOUT PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. BUT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AGREEING TO PUT SOVEREIGNTY ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

4. OLLOQUI, WHO LOOKED AWKWARD THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, WAS CLEARLY BOTH UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND UNCLEAR ABOUT THE DETAILED BACKGROUND TO THE INITIATIVE. HE SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE FEELINGS IN BRITAIN AND HAD BEEN REPORTING THEM FAITHFULLY TO HIS GOVERNMENT. BUT, SPEAKING AS A LATIN AMERICAN WHO WISHED ONLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN, IF HMG REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE IT COULD ONLY BE HARMFUL TO OUR REALTIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AND VERY EXPENSIVE FOR US TO MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY MILITARY PRESENCE AND PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID. BRITAIN

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WAS EXPERT IN DECOLONISATION: THAT EXPERTISE SHOULD BE USED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. MR ONSLOW REPLIED THAT WE HAD BROUGHT MANY COLONIES TO INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE THAT WAS THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED: OTHERS HAD OPETED OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL FOR A DIFFERENT CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. WE WERE GUIDED BY THE WISHES OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS AND HE PERSONALLY FOUND IT WHOLLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO BE RULED BY THE SORT OF GOVERNMENT IN POWER IN ARGENTINA. THE REGIMES HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WAS HARDLY ENCOURAGING AND IT WAS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, OLLOQUI UNDERTOOK TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE ARGENTINES HAD BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE NEW INITIATIVE AND, IF SO, WHAT THEIR REACTION HAD BEEN, AND WHETHER THE MEXICANS WERE CONSULTING ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION (THE AMBASSADOR ORIGINALLY SAID THAT THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED).

6. WE AND YOUR (YOUR TUR) HAVE NOW LEFT THE MEXICANS IN NO DOUBT OF OUR POSITION. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK TO DISSUADE THEM FROM PURSUING THIS ILL-JUDGED INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH THEY APPEAR ALREADY TO HAVE PUT A GOOD DEAL OF STEAM BEHIND IT WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO SPECULATE (AND UKMIS NEW YORK MAY WISH TO COMMENT) ON HOW WELCOME THE PROPOSAL MIGHT BE FOR THE ARGENTINES, GIVEN THEIR TRADITIONAL PREFERENCE FOR WORKING THROUGH THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE FOURTH COMMITTEE.

7. GRATEFUL IF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN ADDRESSEES COULD MAKE DISCREET SOUNDINGS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON WHETHER THE MEXICANS HAVE BEEN LOBBYING FOR THEIR PROPOSAL. IF SO, WE NEED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE INSCRIPTION OF THE FLAKLANDS AS A SPECIAL ITEM AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE AND MIGHT ONLY ADD UNNECESSARY FURTHER COMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH THE REGION (WHICH WE WISH TO RESTORE). WE ARE NOT CLOSING DOORS ON HOW THE DISPUTE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED. BUT IT IS QUITE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD SIMPLY BE RESUMED AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. WHAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS A BREATHING SPACE TO ALLOW TENSIONS TO DIE DOWN, TO GET LIFE ON THE ISLANDS BACK TO NORMAL AND FOR THE ISLANDERS THEMSELVES TO TAKE STOCK ON THEIR FUTURE.

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