

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MEXICO CITY 010100 JULY 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TEL NO 512 OF 30 JUNE 1982

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK BRASILIA CARACAS
BOGOTA QUITO LIMA SANTIAGO LA PAZ MONTEVIDEO ASUNCION
PANAMA CITY SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA

YOUR TELNO 540 (NOT TO ALL): CALL ON DEPUTY MEXICAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. AT THE LAST MINUTE THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER POSTPONED HIS MEETING WITH ME UNTIL NEXT WEEK. I THEREFORE CALLED ON ROSENZWEIG DIAZ (THE SENIOR MEXICAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER) TODAY.

FALKLANDS

2. I REPEATED THE COMMENTS I HAD MADE TO MANUEL TELLO (MY TELNO 506 NOT TO ALL) ABOUT THE MEXICAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ON THE FALKLANDS MENTIONED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON 23 JUNE. I EMPHASISED HOW TIRESOME WE FOUND REFERENCES TO BRITISH COLONIALISM IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. ATTEMPTS ON THE PART OF THE LATIN AMERICANS TO PUT PRESSURE ON US TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA OVER SOVEREIGNTY WOULD DO NO GOOD TO ANYONE. THEY WOULD RISK CREATING A DISAGREEABLE ATMOSPHERE AT NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE, AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT ADVANCE A SETTLEMENT OF THE FALKLANDS ISSUE. THE BRITISH POSITION WAS CLEAR TO ALL. OUR PRIORITIES WERE TO CLEAR UP THE MESS IN THE ISLANDS LEFT BY THE ARGENTINES AND RESTORE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. ONLY AFTER WE HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT THE ISLANDERS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF STABILITY AND CONFIDENCE COULD WE CONSIDER THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS. THEN, AS YOU HAD EXPLAINED SEVERAL TIMES (NOTABLY TO THE BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES ON 18 JUNE), WE COULD BEGIN TO WORK FOR A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA. IN THE MEANTIME IT WOULD BE BEST TO LEAVE WELL ALONE.

3. ROSENZWEIG DIAZ LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY THROUGHOUT, AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO CASTANEDA. HE DID NOT DISPUTE ANY OF MY POINTS.

4. I WENT ON THAT RECRIMINATIONS OVER THE FALKLANDS COULD SET BACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW AND MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND LATIN AMERICA. THE SAME WENT FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHICH, AS COULD BE SEEN FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECLARATION YESTERDAY, ALSO WANTED TO STRENGTHEN ITS CO-OPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICA, AND PURSUE ITS STUDIES OF HOW BEST TO HELP CENTRAL AMERICA. ROSENZWEIG DIAZ SAID THAT MEXICO

CONFIDENTIAL

/WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

1 WOULD GRATLY WELCOME GREATER BRITISH INTEREST IN MEXICO AND LATIN AMERICA. HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE A SERENDIPITOUS RESULT OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. FOR HIS OWN INFORMATION, I MENTIONED AS NO MORE THAN A POSSIBILITY THAT A HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN MEXICO IN SEPTEMBER WHICH COULD BE PRESIDED OVER BY A FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER. ROSENZWEIG DIAZ SAID THAT IN THAT EVENT HE HOPED THAT THE MINISTER WOULD CALL ON SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO HELP.

GUATEMALA

5. WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED GUATEMALA. ROSENZWEIG DIAZ SAID THAT RIOS MONTT WAS NOT FULLY IN CONTROL, AND WAS IN NO WAY TO BE RELIED UPON. THE MEXICANS HAD DONE THEIR BEST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BUT HAD GOT NOWHERE. WE AGREED THAT BRITAIN AND MEXICO HAD SUBSTANTIAL COMMON INTERESTS IN PROMOTING A SETTLEMENT OVER BELIZE, AND THAT WE WOULD KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH.

US/NICARAGUA RELATIONS

6. ROSENZWEIG DIAZ SAID THAT THIS WAS A CHAPTER OF MISFORTUNES. THE AMERICANS HAD TRIED TO SET TOO MANY PRE-CONDITIONS FOR TALKS WITH THE NICARAGUANS, AND THE NICARAGUANS HAD BEHAVED FOOLISHLY BY RAISING THE PROBLEM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE AMERICANS HAD WANTED TALKS TO BE STRICTLY BILATERAL, WHILE THE NICARAGUANS HAD WANTED THE MEXICANS PRESENT TO SEE FAIR PLAY. THE RESULT HAD CEEBBAT US/NICARAGUAN DISCUSSIONS WERE NOW TAKING PLACE AT A VERY LOW LEVEL, AND SEEMED TO BE GETTING NOWHERE. THE MEXICANS WERE NOT PRESSING TO BE PRESENT: THEY ONLY WANTED TO BE HELPFUL. IN ANY EVENT NO-ONE KNEW THE VIEWS OF THE NEW US SECRETARY OF STATE.

7. ROSENZWEIG DIAZ WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE FRIENDLY. HIS ATTITUDE REINFORCES MY VIEW THAT CASTANEDA'S INITIATIVE DOES NOT ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF HIS SUBORDINATES. I DID NOT SEE YOUR TELNO 550 UNTIL AFTER MY MEETING, BUT WE MAY BE SURE THAT THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, WHO IS NO FRIEND OF CASTANEDA'S, WILL REPORT MR ONSLOW'S REMARKS WITH VIGOUR.

TICKELL

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FCO

FALKLAND ISLANDS

FALKLANDS UNIT

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

CABINET OFFICE

2

CONFIDENTIAL