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OO WASHINGTON
OO UKMIS NEW YORK
GRS 355
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FM FCO 081630Z JULY 82
TO IMMEDIATE BERNE
TELEGRAM NUMBER 148 OF 8 JULY
INFO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKMIS GENEVA
MONTEVIDEO, WELLINGTON

YOUR TELNO 206 (NOT TO MONTEVIDEO OR WELLINGTON): RETURN OF PRISONERS AND CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ARGENTINE RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE PASSED BY THE SWISS ON 3 JULY, WE NOW WISH TO UNBLOCK THE PRISONERS ISSUE. PLEASE NOW PASS TO THE SWISS THE FOLLOWING FURTHER MESSAGE, WHICH IS SELF-EXPLANATORY, AND ASK THEM TO CONVEY IT URGENTLY TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. BEGINS.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER HOSTILITIES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC IN THE WEEKS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE 14 JUNE 1982. IT HAS ALSO NOTED THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ON 5 JULY THAT THERE IS A DE FACTO CEASEFIRE ON THE PART OF ARGENTINA: AND IS ENCOURAGED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RELEASE FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT GLOVER. IT CONCLUDES THAT IT IS NOW ACCEPTED BY ARGENTINA THAT ACTIVE HOSTILITIES HAVE ENDED AND ON THAT BASIS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 118 OF THE THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION, PROPOSES TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA ALL ARGENTINE PRISONERS OF WAR STILL IN BRITISH HANDS, AND INVITES THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO AGREE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR RETURN. ENDS.

2. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD EMPHASISE TO THE SWISS THAT, IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, THEY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WHAT WE NOW WANT IS FOR THE ARGENTINES TO NAME THE PORT THROUGH WHICH PRISONERS SHOULD BE RETURNED.

3. WE SHALL ALSO BE DELIVERING THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE TO THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY TODAY.

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4. WE DO NOT INTEND AT THIS STAGE TO PUBLICISE THIS FURTHER MESSAGE. WE HOPE THAT THE SWISS WILL BEAR THIS IN MIND, EG IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL LATER TODAY.
5. FOR MONTEVIDEO. YOUR TELNO 549 REFERS. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS SINCE THE ARGENTINES MAY PROPOSE MONTEVIDEO AS THE PORT FOR RETURN. YOU SHOULD NOT HOWEVER INFORM THE URUGUAYANS OF OUR PROPOSAL AT THIS STAGE.
6. FOR WASHINGTON AND WELLINGTON. SEPARATE TELEGRAM FOLLOWS ON IMPLICATIONS OF THIS FOR US AND NEW ZEALAND ECONOMIC MEASURES.

N.B.

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