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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 720 OF 12 JULY 1982

INFO ROUTINE BONN, ROME, WASHINGTON.

INFO SAVING TO ATHENS, BRUSSELS, UKREP BRUSSELS, COPEHNAGEN,  
THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, DUBLIN.

## FALKLANDS

1. DORIN, THE DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAS AT THE QUAI, SAID AT A LUNCH I GAVE ON 9 JULY (AT WHICH MR CLINTON DAVIS MP WAS PRESENT) THAT FRENCH SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN WAS GOING TO HAVE EXPENSIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR FRANCE. ALREADY TWO IMPORTANT CONTRACTS, FOR A DAM IN ARGENTINA AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT IN PERU, HAD BEEN LOST. IN THE FIRST CASE IT WAS ITALY WHICH WOULD BENEFIT. AS A RESULT, DORIN SAID, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WHY FRANCE HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO SIDE WITH BRITAIN IN THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE, AND TO REASSURE THEM OF CONTINUED FRENCH GOODWILL. CHEYSSON WAS GOING TO HOLD A LUNCH ON 10 JULY TO WHICH HE HAD INVITED ALL LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN PARIS. IN ADDITION, ONE OR MORE HIGH - LEVEL EMISSARIES (ORIGINATING "NOT FAR FROM THE ELYSEE") WOULD BE SENT TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ARGENTINA.
2. A MEMBER OF THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY, MLE BORDILLAT, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE LUNCH, SAID THAT FRENCH SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS HAD CAUSED THE SOCIALIST PARTY GREAT PROBLEMS WITH ITS OWN MEMBERS AND IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES WITHIN LATIN AMERICA. IT HAD BEEN VERY HARD TO EXPLAIN THAT FRANCE HAD HAD TO SUPPORT A FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBER. MANY HAD FELT THAT FRANCE WAS SUPPORTING A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THE POSTURE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS A STEP BACK FROM POSITIONS ADOPTED AT CANCUN AND ON NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS IN GENERAL. MOREOVER MANY PEOPLE HAD THOUGHT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD COME LATE IN THE DAY TO THE RECOGNITION THAT ARGENTINA WAS A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP. MLE BORDILLAT SAID THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES MADE IT ALL THE MORE NECESSARY FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE FALKLANDS TO BE OPENED BETWEEN LONDON AND BUENOS AIRES.
3. MLE BORDILLAT HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN EXPLAINING THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S POSITION ON ARMS SALES. SHE ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN CONTRADICTION BETWEEN IDEALS AND ECONOMIC REALITIES. SHE WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO THE SALE OF ARMS TO LATIN AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS, BUT SHE NOTED THAT THE ARMS WHICH HAD BEEN SOLD TO ALLENDE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF PINOCHET.

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WHAT WAS NEEDED, SHE SAID, WAS A MORE COURAGEOUS ATTITUDE TO BE TAKEN BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. MLE BORDILLAT'S VIEWS REPRESENT ONLY A PART OF THE FEELINGS HELD BY THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY OR EVEN BY THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS. THEY NEVERTHELESS FIT IN WELL ENOUGH WITH THE INSTINCTS OF THE QUAI. I WAS STRUCK BY THE WAY IN WHICH DORIN SEEMED TO BE SEEKING MLE BORDILLAT'S APPROVAL.

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FRETWELL.

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