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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 142200Z JUL 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1128 OF 14 JULY

INFO CARACAS, MEXICO CITY AND WASHINGTON.

INFO SAVING TO: BOGOTA QUITO LIMA SANTIAGO LA PAZ MONTEVIDEO
ASUNCION PANAMA CITY SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA HAVANA.MEXICO CITY TEL NO'S 549 AND 550: MEXICAN INITIATIVE ON THE
FALKLANDS.

1. IF TELLO HAS ACCURATELY REPORTED ARGENTINE REACTIONS, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE WILL NOW PROSPER AND SOON TAKE A CONCRETE FORM. (THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 21 AUGUST IS PRESUMABLY THAT THIS IS THE DATE BY WHICH, UNDER RULE 14, REQUESTS FOR THE INCLUSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S AGENDA HAVE TO BE MADE).

2. THE FALKLANDS QUESTION IS ALREADY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S AGENDA, THOUGH NOT EXPLICITLY SO, BECAUSE IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24'S REPORT (TO BE CONSIDERED AS ITEM 18(A)). THERE IS THEREFORE PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR THE ARGENTINES TO MAKE A BIG ISSUE OF THE FALKLANDS IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE, IN ADDITION TO ANY DEBATE IN PLENARY UNDER THE NEW MEXICAN ITEM. WE HAVE HITHERTO BELIEVED (SIR A PARSONS' TEL NO 1076) THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE FALKLANDS DISCUSSED AT UNGA 37 IN THE DECOLONISATION CONTEXT, I.E. THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. IT SEEMS FROM HERE UNLIKELY THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD AGREE THAT THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS AS NON-COMMITTAL AS TELLO SUGGESTED, SHOULD REPLACE A DEBATE AND A TENDENTIOUS RESOLUTION IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. THEY MAY HAVE DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL SO THAT THE FALKLANDS WILL GET TWO AIRINGS AT THE G.A. UNDER SEPARATE ITEMS (AS ALREADY HAPPENS WITH E.G. CAMBODIA AND ARAB/ISRAEL).

3. A PROPOSAL FOR INSCRIPTION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM WOULD ENJOY BROAD SUPPORT IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE IF COUCHED IN THE NON-COMMITTAL TERMS DESCRIBED BY TELLO. A RESOLUTION SIMPLY CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA IN THE UN FRAMEWORK WOULD PROBABLY COMMAND OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IN THE ASSEMBLY. BUT IF THE INITIATIVE IS TO BE SPONSORED BY ALL LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE MEXICANS WILL BE ABLE TO PREVENT THE INCLUSION OF TENDENTIOUS LANGUAGE ABOUT PREVIOUS GA RESOLUTIONS, ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY, THE EXISTENCE OF A COLONIAL SITUATION AND SO ON. AS REGARDS THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, WE SHALL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO FORCE A VOTE ON INSCRIPTION OF THE ITEM OR ACQUIESCE. THIS DECISION CANNOT SENSIBLY BE TAKEN UNTIL WE KNOW THE TERMS OF THE MEXICAN LETTER.

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4. WE HAVE CONSIDERED WHETHER THERE IS SCOPE FOR STRIKING ANY DEAL WITH THE MEXICANS, EG OUR UNDERTAKING NOT TO OPPOSE THE MEXICAN RESOLUTION PROVIDED THAT THEY UNDERTAKE THAT IT WILL BE TRULY NON-COMMITTAL AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO PARALLEL DISCUSSION IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. BUT I DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY SUCH IDEA. FIRST, OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE COMPLETELY INCONSISTENT WITH HM GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT ON UNTIL AFTER A LONG COOLING OFF PERIOD. SECONDLY, EVEN THOUGH THE MEXICANS ENTERED INTO A DEAL IN GOOD FAITH, THEY WOULD HAVE NO SURE MEANS OF DELIVERING IT: THE ARGENTINES COULD EASILY GET SOMEONE ELSE TO INSIST ON DISCUSSION IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE AND/OR TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO THE MEXICAN DRAFT. THIRDLY, WE HAVE A GOOD CASE TO PUT IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24/FOURTH COMMITTEE CONTEXT. WE CAN MAKE PLAY WITH OUR RECORD AS ADMINISTERING POWER, INSIST ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF DETERMINATION, AND PRODUCE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLANDERS AS PETITIONERS.

5. I AM NOT SURE HOW FAR YOU WISH US TO GET INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE MEXICANS ABOUT THEIR PROPOSAL: TOO CLOSE AN INTEREST MIGHT LEAD THEM TO EXPECT THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO ALONG WITH IT. BUT IN ANY FURTHER CONTACTS IT MIGHT BE WORTH ASKING THE MEXICANS:

- (A) WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARGENTINES WILL REFRAIN FROM PURSUING A SEPARATE DEBATE IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE;
- (B) WHETHER THEY REALLY BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THEIR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM AND THEIR EVENTUAL RESOLUTION NON-COMMITTAL, AND IF SO HOW;
- (C) THE TERMS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO ALL.

WHYTE

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