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TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2804 OF 23 AUGUST

SECRET

Argentina  
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MIPT: ARGENTINA

1. I ASKED ENDERS ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LANARI LAST WEEK. HE SAID THAT THE ARGENTINIAN HAD FOCUSED SINGLE-MINDEDLY ON THE UN RESOLUTIONS. HE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE INTERESTED IN THE BROADER ISSUES OF U S/ARGENTINE RELATIONS, AND WAS UNINFORMED ABOUT RECENT EXCHANGES OVER ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SANCTIONS. ENDERS COMMENTED THAT LANARI'S LACK OF AWARENESS INDICATED FURTHER DECOMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS IN BUENOS AIRES AND A TOTAL LACK OF POLICY-MAKING CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN VARIOUS MINISTRIES.
2. ON THE QUESTION OF UN RESOLUTIONS, ENDERS HAD EXPLAINED TO LANARI QUOTE THAT THE UK WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE AT ANY EARLY POINT ABOUT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS UNQUOTE. HE HAD ADDED THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SPECULATE WHEN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT START, HE COULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DUE COURSE. HOWEVER HE HAD INSISTED TO THE ARGENTINIAN THAT THE US WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH PREJUDGED THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OR IMPOSED AN UNREALISTIC TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
3. ENDERS SAID THAT LANARI HAD BEEN MOST INTERESTED IN WINNING U S SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION. ENDERS HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE ARGENTINIANS SHOULD BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE U S/UK RELATIONSHIP ON U S SUPPORT FOR THE ARGENTINE POSITION. HOWEVER HE HAD INDICATED THAT IF THE MEXICAN DRAFT WERE TO BE AMENDED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO REMOVE THOSE POINTS WHICH PREJUDGED SOVEREIGNTY, THEN THE U S WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT IT. LANARI HAD ASKED FOR DETAILED AMERICAN VIEWS ON THE MEXICAN DRAFT, AND THESE HAD NOW BEEN CONVEYED TO BUENOS AIRES (I GATHER THAT A MESSAGE ABOUT THIS HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO MR ONSLOW THROUGH THE U S EMBASSY IN LONDON).
4. I RUBBED IN THE POINT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY. ENDERS NODDED HIS AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT THE BASIC U S VIEW WAS THAT IT WANTED A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER THE AMERICANS APPRECIATED OUR POSITION AND WANTED TO AVOID ANY REFERENCE IN A UN RESOLUTION TO A STRUCTURED SCHEDULE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDINGLY THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT SUGGEST PROCEDURES, MODELS OR CONCEPTS IN THE WAY THEY HAD DONE DURING THE CRISIS. HE REPEATED THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPED IN NEW YORK.

THOMAS

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