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FM FCO 031530Z SEPTEMBER 1982  
TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1615 OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1982  
INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNOS 2875 AND 2889: FALKLANDS: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. ON BALANCE I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP SIR J THOMSON'S SUGGESTION THAT I SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO SHULTZ. YOU WILL SEE FROM A TELEGRAM I AM SENDING TO UKMIS NEW YORK THAT I WISH TO DISCOURAGE THE AMERICANS FROM SEEKING TO 'IMPROVE' THE ARGENTINE/MEXICAN DRAFT IN THE WAY THEY ENVISAGE. GIVEN ENDERS' PREOCCUPATION WITH LATIN AMERICA AND MRS KIRKPATRICK'S FORTHCOMING TOUR OF THE REGION, I ALSO SEE ADVANTAGE IN LETTING SHULTZ HAVE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF OUR POSITION DIRECT FROM ME AT THIS STAGE.
2. UNLESS YOU HAVE FURTHER COMMENTS PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE.

BEGINS:

I HAVE READ WITH INTEREST THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN TOM ENDERS AND CRANLEY ONSLOW ABOUT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE HANDLING OF THE DEBATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH WILL RESULT FROM THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE THIS PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF OUR THINKING ON THE MATTER WHICH IS, I KNOW, ALSO OF GREAT INTEREST TO YOU.

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH ARGENTINA AND TO NORMALISE OUR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL LINKS AS SOON AS THIS IS POSSIBLE. BUT I DO NOT SUPPOSE THAT YOU WILL BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT WE SHALL OPPOSE ANY CALL ON US TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WITH ARGENTINA. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAD EMBARKED UPON A NEW ATTEMPT TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHEN ARGENTINA CHOSE TO BREAK OFF

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THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ATTACK US. THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THAT ATTACK WILL BE WITH THE ISLANDERS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, AS WILL THE CONSTANT RISKS FROM THE MINES SO INDISCRIMINATELY SCATTERED BY THE OCCUPYING ARGENTINE FORCES. THE PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC COST TO THIS COUNTRY HAS ALSO BEEN GREAT AND NEITHER PARLIAMENTARY NOR PUBLIC OPINION WOULD UNDERSTAND IF WE WERE TO CONTEMPLATE RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT NOW EXIST.

AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD OF RECONSTRUCTION WE SHALL WANT TO TAKE SOUNDINGS OF ISLANDER OPINION ABOUT THE FUTURE. I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF, AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THEY OPTED FOR ANY CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH ARGENTINA. BRITAIN WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE PREPARED TO PUSH THEM IN THIS DIRECTION. GIVEN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY UNDER THE UN CHARTER, AND AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF ARGENTINE INSISTENCE THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST LEAD TO A TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY DESPITE THE ISLANDERS' CLEAR OPPOSITION, IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR US TO ALLOW OTHERS TO THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINA OFFER A REALISTIC WAY AHEAD FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. I BELIEVE THAT OUR POSITION WILL BE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD IN THE MANY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SHOWN SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR US IN THE EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS.

THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH ARGENTINA AND MEXICO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON IS WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE. THE REFERENCES TO PREVIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS AND TO NON-ALIGNED PRONOUNCEMENTS DO NOT HELP, BUT EVEN IF THEY WERE TAKEN OUT AND ANY SUGGESTION OF A TIMETABLE FOR THE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS REMOVED, WE WOULD STILL VOTE AGAINST ANYTHING WHICH CALLS ON US TO NEGOTIATE WITH ARGENTINA AND WHICH FAILS TO ACCORD TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE. I SHOULD LIKE TO FEEL SURE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT CONSIDER GIVING ITS SUPPORT TO ANY SUCH TEXT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE TALKS WHICH WE SHALL BE HAVING ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS THIS MONTH.

ENDS

PYM

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

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FALKLANDS UNIT

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN:  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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