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FM FCO 011530Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 180 OF 1 OCTOBER 1982

'SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE': ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA

1. A PARADE TO SALUTE THE TASK FORCE WILL BE HELD IN LONDON ON 12 OCTOBER. THIS IS ALSO 'COLUMBUS DAY', WHICH IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN SPAIN AND MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ARGENTINA (MY TELNO 107 TO ASUNCION - NOT TO ALL). THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE (TO WHICH ATTENTION SHOULD NOT OF COURSE BE DRAWN) BUT THE DATE CANNOT BE CHANGED.

2. IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE THE ARGENTINES MAY WELL SEEK TO CAPITALISE ON THE COINCIDENCE OF DATES AND TO REPRESENT THE PARADE AS A DELIBERATE INSULT TO ALL LATIN AMERICANS.

LINE TO TAKE

3. IN ANSWERING LOCAL CRITICISM YOU SHOULD TRY TO PLAY THE MATTER DOWN, AND SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR PARTICULAR AUDIENCE:

(A) THE DATE OF THE PARADE WAS SELECTED BECAUSE IT WAS ONE WHICH WAS CONVENIENT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELD SOONER BECAUSE SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE (EG HMS INVINCIBLE) HAVE ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE UK. ONCE THEY WERE ALL BACK, IT MADE SENSE TO HOLD THE PARADE AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE.

(B) THE PARADE IS ORGANISED BY THE CITY OF LONDON AND NOT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

(C) WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO WISH TO OFFEND OUR LATIN AMERICAN FRIENDS.

4. IF YOU THINK IT WOULD HELP YOU COULD MENTION THE PART BRITISH FORCES PLAYED IN THE 19TH CENTURY IN HELPING LATIN

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AMERICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, BUT IT IS A POINT THAT SHOULD  
OBVIOUSLY BE USED WITH CARE.

5. THE COI AND BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PLAY  
THE EVENT DOWN.

PYM

BY TELEGRAPH

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[IMMEDIATE]

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LUXEMBOURG  
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BERNE  
DUBLIN  
HELSINKI  
STOCKHOLM  
MOSCOW  
CAIRO

CG CAPE TOWN  
PRETORIA  
CG JOHANNESBURG  
JAKARTA  
ISLAMABAD  
MANILA  
PEKING  
TOKYO  
DACCA  
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KUALA LUMPUR  
SINGAPORE  
ACCRA

LAGOS  
NAIROBI  
SALISBURY  
LUSAKA  
PORT LOUIS  
KINGSTON  
PORT OF SPAIN  
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NASSAU  
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[ROUTINE]

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