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FM QUITO 082130Z OCTOBER 1982

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 137 OF 8 OCTOBER

INFO ROUTINE ASUNCION, BRASILIA, CARACAS, LIMA, MEXICO CITY, PANAMA CITY, LA PAZ, MONTEVIDEO, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA, SANTIAGO

SALUTE TO THE TASK FORCE

1. I WAS SUMMONED BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY (POLITICAL) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY AND WAS TOLD THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDENT HAD HEARD WITH SURPRISE AND DISPLEASURE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO HOLD A VICTORY PARADE ON 12 OCTOBER. THIS WAS A DATE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS AND ITS CHOICE FOR THE PARADE COULD ONLY BE REGARDED AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT.

2. VEINTIMILLA MADE CLEAR THAT THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OBJECTING TO THE HOLDING OF THE PARADE BUT TO THE DATE. THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION HAD 13 OCTOBER OR ANY OTHER DATE BEEN CHOSEN.

3. I SAID THAT THE CHOICE OF DATE HAD BEEN UNINTENTIONAL AND HAD BEEN MADE NOT BY HMG BUT BY THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ISSUE ORDERS IN SUCH A MATTER. VEINTIMILLA SAID THAT THIS MADE SOME DIFFERENCE BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PARADE WOULD BE ATTENDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. I UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT TO YOU THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN.

5. FCO PLEASE PASS INFO TO ALL ADDRESSEES

SUXTON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

(Repetition to PANAMA, SAN JOSE
referred for departmental decision,
repeated as requested to other posts.)

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