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MIPT

LINE TO TAKE AFTER UN FALKLANDS VOTE

THIS IS THE SORT OF RESOLUTION WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY USUALLY PASS BY A LARGE MAJORITY. BUT MANY GOVERNMENTS - HOWEVER THEY CAST THEIR VOTES - MUST HAVE RECOGNISED THAT THIS ONE IS A HYPOCRITICAL SHAM.

- HOW CAN LAST APRIL'S AGGRESSOR TALK NOW ABOUT THE NON-USE OF FORCE?
- HOW CAN A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS VANDALISED THE ISLANDS NOW CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THE DESTRUCTION IS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE AND THE DANGER FROM MINES PERSISTS?
- HOW CAN THE INVADER OF THE ISLANDS NOW CALL FOR THE ISLANDERS' INTERESTS TO BE RESPECTED?

THE ARGENTINE POSITION IS SIMPLY NOT CREDIBLE. THIS HAS BECOME CLEARER AS THEY HAVE WATERED THEIR RESOLUTION DOWN IN ORDER TO ATTRACT SUPPORT. BUT IT REMAINS OBJECTIONABLE. IT ENTIRELY OVERLOOKS THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS AND THEN CALLS FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS AS IF THE ARGENTINE INVASION HAD NEVER HAPPENED. THIS IS PHONEY DIPLOMACY. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON OUR POLICY IN THE ISLANDS.

OF COURSE A VOTE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT HAPPENS IN THE ISLANDS. THERE WE WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM OUR THREE PRIORITIES:

- REPAIRING THE DAMAGE
- PROVIDING FOR THEIR DEFENCE
- PLANNING FOR THEIR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LATER ON, WHEN THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN, WE WILL CONSULT THE ISLANDERS ABOUT HOW THEY SEE THE FUTURE. BUT AFTER THE TRAUMA OF THE INVASION, IT IS NOT YET TIME FOR THAT. IT IS EVEN LESS TIMELY TO TALK ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THE ARGENTINES HAVE CLEARLY NOT CHANGED THEIR SPOTS.

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