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DESKBY 170900Z

FROM PORT STANLEY 171240Z JAN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 24 OF 17 JANUARY

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FROM PS/LADY YOUNG FOR PALMER (FID) AND NEWS DEPARTMENT

LADY YOUNG'S VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS: 200 MILE FISHERIES LIMIT

1. YOU WILL KNOW (TELECON ROBERTS/RIDDGWAY) THAT COUNCILLOR TONY

?
BLAKE HAS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST THIS EVENING ON FALKLAND ISLANDS RADIO THAT LADY YOUNG HAD GIVEN AN ASSURANCE AT HER MEETING WITH THE JOINT COUNCILS ON 16 JANUARY THAT A 200 MILE FISHERIES LIMIT WOULD BE DECLARED WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. LADY YOUNG PROPOSES TO ISSUE A CATEGORICAL DENIAL AT HER PRESS CONFERENCE (TODAY) BUT IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE BRITISH MEDIA INTEREST YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE DISCUSSION AT HER MEETING WITH JOINT COUNCILS.

2. LADY YOUNG TOLD THE COUNCILLORS THAT WE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO A 200 MILE LIMIT IN THE ISLANDS. FISH STOCKS WERE RUNNING OUT AND WE RECOGNISED THAT THE INCOME FROM LICENSING FEES COULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT. THE ISSUE WAS CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE AGENDA BUT THERE WERE REAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD TO BE RESOLVED AND NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN EITHER WAY. THE COUNCILLORS POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN THE ISLANDS AND ELSEWHERE (BY IMPLICATION IN BRITAIN) IF IT WERE THOUGHT THAT THE REASON FOR NOT DECLARING A 200 MILE LIMIT WAS THAT IT WOULD UPSET THE ARGENTINES. LADY YOUNG REPEATED THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WAS POLICING: IF A FISHERIES ZONE WERE TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE IT WOULD NEED TO BE ENFORCED EFFECTIVELY. BUT IT WAS WRONG TO SAY THAT HMG WOULD NOT DECLARE AN EFL SIMPLY BECAUSE IT MIGHT UPSET ARGENTINA.

3. SOME COUNCILLORS COMMENTED THAT SELF-POLICING HAD WORKED IN THE PACIFIC: THEY DID NOT SEE WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED IN THE FALKLANDS. COUNCILLOR BLAKE SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW POLITICAL FACTORS WERE OUTWEIGHING THESE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. LADY YOUNG REPLIED THAT SHE COULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN LONDON. BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WERE NOT THE SOUTH PACIFIC. SHE WAS THEN ASKED WHETHER SHE COULD GIVE ANY INDICATION OF THE TIMING OF OUR DECISION ON THE EFL. WOULD IT, FOR EXAMPLE.

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BE TAKEN WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS? LADY YOUNG SAID THAT SHE HOPED A DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN BY THEN. SHE COULD ASSURE THE COUNCILLORS THAT THE PROBLEM WAS BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED.

4. LADY YOUNG IS DISAPPOINTED THAT BLAKE SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO MISREPRESENT HER REMARKS IN THIS DAMAGING WAY TO THE PRESS. SHE HAS MADE CLEAR TO HIM AND TO OTHER COUNCILLORS HER CONCERN THAT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN BREACHED IN THIS FASHION. IT MAY BE HELPFUL THAT COUNCILLOR JOHN CHEEK SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH JOHN HAZARD OF THE GUARDIAN WHO TELEPHONED HIM ABOUT THE INTERVIEW EARLIER THIS EVENING.

5. LADY YOUNG FEELS THAT THIS INCIDENT UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR CARE IN DEALING WITH THE COUNCILLORS. SHE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD WARN MR HESELTINE'S OFFICE OF THE DANGER THAT ANYTHING THAT IS SAID TO THEM WILL LEAK OR POSSIBLY BE MISREPRESENTED TO THE PRESS.

HUNT

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