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 PS/MR WHITNEY
 PS/MR RIFKIND
 PS/PUS
 SIR J BULLARD
 SIR I SINCLAIR
 SIR W HARDING
 MR FRIGET
 MR ADAMS
 LORD N GORDON-LENNOX 1
 SIR C TICKELL
 MR D C THOMAS
 MR CARTLEDGE

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 MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR)
 MISS M E CUND) TREASURY
 MR LITTLER)

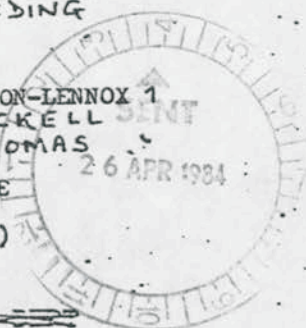
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OF
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~~MR V A PATTISON, FID, ODA~~
 MR POWER, SAD, ODA

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Prime Minister
 26/4

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FM PARIS 261150Z APR 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 502 OF 26 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY BERNE, ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, BONN, BRASILIA, ROME

INFO SAVING ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, UKREP BRUSSELS

VISIT OF ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER TO PARIS: 24 APRIL

SUMMARY

1. CAPUTO GIVEN TOP-LEVEL TREATMENT DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS ON 24 APRIL. FALKLANDS DISCUSSED: BUT NO EVIDENT SHIFT IN ARGENTINE POSITION.

DETAIL

2. CAPUTO PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS ON 24 APRIL. HE MET PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, PRIME MINISTER MAUROY AND CHEYSSON. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED BILATERAL COOPERATION, DEBT AND REGIONAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE FALKLANDS. IT WAS AGREED THAT CHEYSSON WILL VISIT ARGENTINA IN JULY, WHEN THE FIRST MEETING WILL ALSO BE HELD OF THE BILATERAL MIXED COMMISSION AGREED IN PRINCIPLE LAST DECEMBER.

3. FOUQUET, HEAD OF SOUTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT AT THE QUAI, TOLD US THAT, ON THE FALKLANDS, CAPUTO HAD SPOKEN MUCH OF HIS DESIRE FOR A CONFIDENTIAL DIALOGUE WITH THE UK USING THE PHRASES INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS AND ADVANCING BY SMALL STEPS. HE HAD ALSO SAID THAT THE UK MUST UNDERSTAND THAT A DEMOCRATIC ARGENTINA WAS DIFFERENT FROM GALTIERI. THE ARGENTINES HAD MADE THE FIRST MOVE AND HE FOUND THE UK REPLY SURPRISING AND DISAPPOINTING. IT WAS NOT HIS REAL INTEREST TO TALK ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY, BUT HE COULD NOT FOR DOMESTIC REASONS AGREE TO SAY THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD COVER EVERYTHING EXCEPT SOVEREIGNTY. EXCLUSION OF SOVEREIGNTY COULD NOT BE A

REASONS AGREE TO SAY THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD COVER EVERYTHING EXCEPT SOVEREIGNTY. EXCLUSION OF SOVEREIGNTY COULD NOT BE A PRECONDITION FOR TALKS. CHEYSSON REPLIED THAT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN PARTIES WAS INDISPENSABLE AND RECALLED FRANCE'S POSITION OVER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE FALKLANDS.

4. CAPUTO TOLD BOTH CHEYSSON AND LATER THE PRESS THAT THE ARGENTINES WISHED THE TALKS TO BE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL; BUT HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE A POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, NOT MEDIATION, BY A THIRD COUNTRY TO GET THE FIRST STAGE OF THE DIALOGUE UNDER WAY. FOUQUET INTERPRETED THIS AS A REFERENCE TO THE SWISS.

5. IN HIS PUBLISHED SPEECH AT A LUNCH GIVEN BY CHEYSSON, CAPUTO TOOK A TOUGHER LINE ON SOVEREIGNTY. HE REFERRED TO THE NECESSITY OF INCLUDING THE QUESTION IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION, AND CALLED ON THE UK TO AGREE TO NEGOTIATE THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS AND TAKE SOME FIRST STEPS SUCH AS LIFTING THE EXCLUSION ZONE, SUSPENDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT AND FORTIFICATIONS AND GUARANTEEING THE NON-NUCLEARISATION OF THE ZONE. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, CAPUTO'S THEME WAS RATHER THE NEED FOR TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS AND PROGRESS BY SMALL STEPS.

6. WE SHALL REPORT ON NON-FALKLANDS ASPECTS MORE FULLY BY BAG.

7. FCO TELNO 308: WE DID NOT HAND OVER THE TEXT OF THE UK MESSAGE OF 6 APRIL TO THE FRENCH. IN TALKING TO FOUQUET, FIRST SECRETARY CHANCERY STRESSED THAT WE AGREED WITH CAPUTO ON THE NEED TO KEEP THE CONTENT OF THE EXCHANGES CONFIDENTIAL.

FCO PASS SAVING ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, UKREP BRUSSELS

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