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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 133 OF 24 OCT

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FROM UKREP BRUSSELS

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 68

ALFONSIN'S SPEECH TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY

1. ALFONSIN'S SPEECH CONCENTRATED ON THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY, DEBTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND TRADE SYSTEM, AND EC/ARGENTINE RELATIONS. HE DID NOT MENTION THE FALKLANDS EXPLICITLY. HE WAS QUITE WARMLY RECEIVED, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, IN SUMMING UP, SAID THAT HIS APPEAL FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE EC SHOULD NOT GO UNHEADED. PRESS INTEREST IN THE UK POSITION, FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF UK STATEMENT IN LONDON YESTERDAY.

DETAIL

2. ALFONSIN SPOKE TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN A SPECIAL SESSION AT NOON ON 24 OCTOBER. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT SAID, IN INTRODUCING HIM, THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK AS THE STATESMAN WHO HAD BROUGHT FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

IMMEDIATE

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... IN INTRODUCING HIM, THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK (SIC) AS THE STATESMAN WHO HAD BROUGHT FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY BACK TO ARGENTINA AND WHO HAD VISIONS OF A FUTURE FOR ARGENT WHICH WAS RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST.

3. ALFONSIN THANKED THE PARLIAMENT FOR HAVING GIVEN HIM THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK. HE AIMED TO STIMULATE A DIALOGUE PROVIDING FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA, AND ARGENTINA IN PARTICULAR.

4. ARGENTINA HAD GONE THROUGH A TORTUROUS PERIOD OF 50 YEARS. INSTEAD OF PEACE AND JUSTICE, IT HAD SUFFERED VIOLENCE, INTOLERANCE AND CONFLICT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE AGREEMENT WITH CHILE PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE AND PROOF OF THE ATTITUDE WHICH ARGENTINA WOULD ADOPT IN DEALING WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. IT WAS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT ONE COULD ACHIEVE PEACE WHEN THERE WAS A JOINT DESIRE TO ACHIEVE IT. (HE STRESSED THE WORD "JOINT" AND THIS SENTENCE WAS APPLAUDED BY SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS).

5. THE MAIN PART OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO A CALL, IN VERY UNSPECIFIC TERMS, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND TRADING ARRANGEMENTS. UNLESS THERE WERE CHANGES, ARGENTINA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GENERATE THE WEALTH WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO REPAY ITS DEBTS, THOUGH REPAYMENT WAS ITS INTENTION.

6. THE FINAL PART OF THE SPEECH CONCENTRATED ON ARGENTINA'S RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE COMMUNITY WAS AN EXAMPLE TO LATIN AMERICA IN THAT CONFRONTATIONS IN EUROPE HAD BEEN REPLACED BY COOPERATION. THE COMMUNITY HAD AN EFFICIENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR EXTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE COMMUNITY'S ESSENTIAL INTERESTS AND THOSE OF LATIN AMERICA WERE COMPLEMENTARY. CO-OPERATION SHOULD ENABLE ARGENTINA'S EXPORTS TO EUROPE TO GROW. THERE SHOULD BE A GRADUAL REMOVAL OF PROTECTIONIST MEASURES OF ALL KINDS. ARGENTINA AND LATIN AMERICA WOULD PROVIDE RELIABLE SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS, AND MARKETS FOR EUROPEAN EXPORTS. THE EC'S COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY WAS A MAJOR FACTOR, AND A PROBLEM FOR ARGENTINA. THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS PART OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE EC AND HAD TO BE MAINTAINED, BUT ITS METHODS OF OPERATION CAUSED REAL PROBLEMS. ARGENTINA SHOULD HAVE A PLACE IN PROVIDING GRAIN, MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. THE EC AND ARGENTINA SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE CAP.

7. PFLIMLIN, PRESIDENT OF THE EP, DID NOT PERMIT ANY DEBATE. HE REFERRED TO THE WARM APPLAUSE FOR ALFONSIN'S SPEECH AND SAID THAT ALFONSIN HAD LAUNCHED AN APPEAL TO CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EC AND LATIN AMERICA INCLUDING ARGENTINA IN PARTICULAR. THIS WOULD NOT GO UNHEEDED.

8. ABOUT HALF THE UK MEMBERS OF THE EDG WERE PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER FOR ALFONSIN'S SPEECH. NONE ATTENDED THE LUNCH FOR HIM AFTERWARDS, BUT TOKSVIG A DANISH EDG MEMBER WAS THERE, AS WAS TUGENDHAT (COMMISSIONER).

9. LARGE NUMBERS OF JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING SOME REPRESENTING ARGENTINE MEDIA, ATTENDED. IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS BRIEFING THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE UK ATTITUDE AS DESCRIBED

WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE UK ATTITUDE AS DESCRIBED
IN TODAY'S FT ARTICLE (EUROPEAN EDITION) HEADED "UK UPSET
BY ALFONSIN'S STRASBOURG REQUEST". THE MEDIA OF OTHER EC
COUNTRIES SUGGESTED THE UK WAS OVER-REACTING.

10. WE MADE COPIES OF THE UK STATEMENT IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS.
ASKED WHETHER THE STATEMENT MEANT THAT THE UK WOULD BLOCK
CLOSER EC/ARGENTINE CO-OPERATION AS PROPOSED BY ALFONSIN,
WE TOOK THE FOLLOWING LINE:

BEGINS

THE LACK OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA
IS OF COURSE A COMPLICATING FACTOR. SO IS ARGENTINA'S FAILURE
SO FAR TO DECLARE A DEFINITIVE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.
LIKE THE EC, BRITAIN HAS WELCOMED THE RETURN OF DEMOCRATIC
RULE TO ARGENTINE AND WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH IT.
THE UK HAS TAKEN INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE MORE NORMAL BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND REMAINS READY TO DO THIS. IT WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT
REGRET AND FRUSTRATION TO THE UK WHEN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT
BROUGHT THE TALKS IN BERNE ON 18 AND 19 JULY TO AN ABRUPT
AND PREMATURE END BY FAILING TO PROCEED UPON THE BASIS THAT
HAD BEEN CLEARLY AGREED. IT IS ALSO RELEVANT THAT THE UK,
IN TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO HAVE TALKS, HAD PROVIDED THAT
THERE SHOULD BE DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL ISSUES OF CONCERN
INCLUDING THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL
RELATIONS.

ENDS

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AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE FOLLOWING:
FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINE
CONSIDERABLE TO BEYOND THE WIDER EC AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
C. THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS MAINTAINED A POLICY

WHICH HAS BEEN DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS MAINTAINED A POLICY OF CO-OPERATION
AND FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE OF THE WORLD
AND HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE UK ATTITUDE AS DESCRIBED
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