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TO IMMEDIATE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1260 OF 31 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BERNE PORT STANLEY BIS BUENOS AIRES

INFO SAVING EC POSTS, WASHINGTON.

MIPT: FALKLANDS: CAPUTO'S SPEECH

1. IN HIS SPEECH IN PLENARY TODAY 31 OCTOBER CAPUTO BEGAN WITH A WARM TRIBUTE TO MRS GANDHI. HE PARTICULARLY AND RATHER OBVIOUSLY COMMENDED HER FIGHT FOR RESPECT OF 'SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY'.
2. CAPUTO SAID THE DRAFT RESOLUTION BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY URGED THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ARGENTINA TO NEGOTIATE ON 'ALL THEIR DIFFERENCES'. THERE HAD BEEN FIVE PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND FOUR CONSENSUSES AIMED AT FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE THROUGH NEGOTIATION. THE SEARCH FOR SUCH A SOLUTION REQUIRES BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO SHOW MODERATION AND A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. INTERNATIONAL LAW DID NOT ADMIT THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE. HENCE THE LARGE SUMS INVESTED IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF A 'MILITARY AND COLONIAL SITUATION' IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION. THE ISLANDS WERE IN LATIN AMERICA. ARGENTINA'S DETERMINATION TO RECOVER THEM WOULD NOT DIMINISH. THE PROBLEM WOULD ONLY BE ERADICATED BY MEANS OF A JUST AND NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THE OUTCOME WAS INEVITABLE. BUT BRITISH SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS COULD DELAY IT.
3. CAPUTO REGRETTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES FELT BOUND TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM. THIS DID NOT ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE. DELAY IN SETTLING THE QUESTION ONLY PRODUCED UNEASE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
4. CAPUTO SAID THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT INDICATED THAT ARGENTINA HAD EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. BUT PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT MADE IT PLAIN THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM PERSISTED IN ITS ATTITUDE OF 'RIGID REFUSAL'. HE QUOTED FROM THE BERNE COMMUNIQUE IN SUPPORT OF HIS VIEW.
5. CAPUTO REMINDED THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT BEGAN WITH A BRITISH ACT OF FORCE RESULTING IN THE EXPLUSION OF THE ARGENTINE POPULATION. ARGENTINA HAD NEVER ACCEPTED THAT SITUATION. MOREOVER THE RESTITUTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLANDS TO ARGENTINA

/ DID NOT

DID NOT INVOLVE AMENDING ANY PEACE TREATY. NOR DID IT ENDANGER ANY TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENT IN ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD.

6. CAPUTO REFERRED TO PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S ADDRESS TO THE GA ON 24 SEPTEMBER IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID ARGENTINA'S CLAIM WAS 'DEEPLY FELT' BY THE ARGENTINE NATION. BUT ARGENTINA WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONTROVERSY. ARGENTINA'S WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE CONTRASTED WITH BRITISH INSISTENCE THAT ARGENTINA 'MUST LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1982 CONFLICT'. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS BRITAIN'S AIM TO OVERCOME THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR OR TO WORSEN THE SITUATION AND TO DRAG IT OUT 'LABORIOUSLY AND PAINFULLY FOR EVER' HE ASKED WHO GAINED FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION? WHERE DID IT LEAD? WHO BENEFITTED FROM THE MILITARISATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC: WHAT WAS THE AIM OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF POWERFUL AIR AND NAVAL BASE, THE STATIONING OF 4,000 TROOPS ON THE ISLANDS, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF WEAPONRY FAR IN EXCESS OF THAT NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE ISLANDS? WAS THIS EVIDENCE THAT THE FALKLANDS WERE PART OF A GLOBAL STRATEGIC PROJECT?

7. CAPUTO SAID THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN CONCRETE STEPS TO REAFFIRM ITS SUPPORT FOR PEACE DURING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF ITS ADMINISTRATION: IT HAD SETTLED A CENTURY OLD CONFLICT WITH CHILE OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL. IT HAD SIGNED A JOINT DECLARATION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT. IT HAD PLEDGED TO ITS PARLIAMENT TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. AND IT HAD STATED ITS INTENTION TO WORK FOR PEACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT. THESE ACTS WERE A TESTIMONY TO ARGENTINA'S DESIRE FOR PEACE.

8. SPECIFICALLY ON THE FALKLANDS CAPUTO SAID THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN REJECTING FORCE AS A MEANS OF SOLVING THE CONFLICT. ARGENTINA HAD ADOPTED A PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC POSITION. PEACE WAS NOT 'A DESIRABLE END AND AN INDISPENSABLE ASSET' THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FALKLANDS QUESTION TRANSCENDED MORE THAN THE INTERESTS OF ONE COUNTRY. WHAT ARGENTINA SOUGHT WAS A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE. MEMBER STATES NEEDED TO 'VERIFY HONESTLY' WHETHER THEY SUPPORTED THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF ARTICLE I OF THE UN CHARTER.

9. ARGENTINA WAS SIMPLY ASKING THE ASSEMBLY TO AGREE THAT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WAS THE ONLY APPROPRIATE MEANS DEFINITELY TO SOLVE CONFLICTS. THIS REQUIRED A REAFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER. IN NEGOTIATING HE SAID ARGENTINA WISHED TO DISCUSS 'EVERYTHING', INCLUDING THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINA ON A 'PERMANENT BASIS'. THE STATUS OF THE PRESENT INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS WOULD ALSO REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION.

10. CAPUTO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT ARGENTINA WAS LOOKING FOR THE VOTE OF ALL DELEGATIONS PRESENT. BUT THE VOTE THEY VALUED MOST OF ALL WAS THAT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. THIS WOULD SHOW THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM NOT ONLY SUPPORTED THE CHARTER BUT WAS READY TO BEGIN A 'NEW HISTORICAL ERA' WITH ARGENTINA.

FCO PASS SAVING

THOMSON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

Repetition to PORT STANLEY  
BIS BA  
referred for departmental decision,  
repeated as requested to other posts.

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