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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 623 OF 19 JULY

INFO BERNE, UKMIS NEW YORK.

FRY'S LETTER OF 17 JULY TO LAMONT, FID: FRANCE/ARGENTINA.

SUMMARY.

1. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER IS TO VISIT FRANCE THIS WEEKEND: HE WILL DISCUSS THE FALKLANDS WITH DUMAS.

DETAIL.

2. THE QUAI HAVE CONFIRMED REPORTS FROM BUENOS AIRES THAT CAPUTO IS ARRIVING TODAY ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO FRANCE. HE WILL MEET DUMAS TOMORROW IN BORDEAUX, WHERE HIS FRENCH WIFE COMES FROM AND WHERE DUMAS WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO SPEND PART OF THE WEEKEND.

3. ARGENTINE SOURCES QUOTED BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE SAY THAT CAPUTO'S MAIN PURPOSE WILL BE TO DISCUSS THE FALKLANDS, ALTHOUGH PREPARATIONS FOR ALFONSIN'S VISIT TO FRANCE IN SEPTEMBER, BILATERAL COOPERATION AND DEBT WILL ALSO BE ON THE AGENDA.

4. FOUQUET (QUAI) TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH EXPECTED CAPUTO TO ASK FRANCE TO TRY TO PERSUADE BRITAIN TO ACCEPT NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS (I.E. WITHOUT EXCLUDING SOVEREIGNTY OUTRIGHT FROM THE AGENDA), AND TO APPLY PRESSURE IF BRITAIN REFUSED.

FRETWELL

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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