

GRS 440

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO DESKBY 080800Z FCO
TELNO 1019
OF 080045Z NOVEMBER 85.

FOLLOWING FROM MAXEY

YOUR TELSNOs 594 AND 595: FALKLANDS AT THE UN

1. SIR J THOMSON WAS INVITED AT SHORT NOTICE TO A CEREMONY IN HONOUR OF MR PAUL NITZE AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY AND WILL UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE BACK IN NEW YORK UNTIL AFTER YOUR DEADLINE.

2. AS I SEE IT, AN INITIATIVE OF THE KIND FORESEEN IN YOUR TURS IS MOST UNLIKELY TO PROSPER. THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT THE BATTLE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS TAKEN PLACE EVER SINCE 1982 (AND FOR THAT MATTER FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE THEIR INVASION) ON TERRAIN DEFINED BY THE ARGENTINES. THIS HAS PROFOUNDLY CONDITIONED THE APPROACH OF DELEGATIONS HERE. THERE MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN A CHANCE OF A RESOLUTION OF OUR OWN ATTRACTING SOME SUPPORT IN 1982 WHEN MEMORIES OF THE INVASION WERE FRESH AND BEFORE THE ITEM HAD SETTLED INTO ITS CURRENT GROOVE. FOR US TO TABLE A RESOLUTION NOW WILL BE SEEN AS AN ADMISSION THAT WE ARE LOSING THE UN GAME (IN WHICH WE HAVE MANAGED, DESPITE SOME ODDS, TO MAINTAIN A RESPECTABLE SCORE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS) AND ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO MOVE THE GOALPOSTS. OUR INSTINCT IS THAT A TEXT ON THE LINES OF THAT IN YOUR SECOND TUR WOULD ATTRACT VERY LITTLE SUPPORT INDEED, EVEN FROM THOSE WHO PRESENTLY EITHER ABSTAIN ON OR VOTE AGAINST THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION. WORSE STILL, IT WOULD BE SEEN BY SOME OF OUR CURRENT FRIENDS AS AN EXCUSE TO SWITCH TO VOTING IN FAVOUR OF THE ARGENTINE DRAFT.

3. IT WOULD BE OPEN TO US TO TABLE THE DRAFT IN ORDER TO DEFINE ONE PARAMETER AND NOT ASK THAT IT BE PUT TO THE VOTE. BUT THIS WOULD ALSO BE SEEN AS AN ADMISSION OF DEFEAT AND WOULD NOT LEAD TO THE 'COLLISION' TO WHICH YOU REFER IN YOUR PARA 4. IN ANY CASE, THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ARE SUCH THAT WE COULD NOT PREVENT A DRAFT OF OUR OWN BEING HIJACKED. THE ARGENTINES WOULD HAVE AN AUTOMATIC MAJORITY FOR ANY AMENDMENT THEY WOULD CARE TO PROPOSE: OPERATIVE PARA 2

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IN THE DRAFT, FOR EXAMPLE, LENDS ITSELF TO AN AMENDMENT REPLACING ''PRACTICAL MEASURES ETC'' WITH ''THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE''. IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ARGENTINES TO AMEND THE FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH BUT THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE VOTED DOWN WITH THE REST OF THE TEXT WERE WE TO GET THAT FAR. OUR PROBLEM, IN OTHER WORDS, IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT FACED BY THE MOROCCANS OVER THE WESTERN SAHARA.

4. THESE ARGUMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO THE NOTION THAT WE MIGHT OURSELVES PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO AN ARGENTINE TEXT, HOWEVER SOFT. INDEED THEY REINFORCE THE CASE FOR DOING SO. THE RULES OF PROCEDURE WOULD THEN BE WORKING IN OUR FAVOUR AND OUR NATURAL SUPPORTERS WOULD FIND IT INFINITELY EASIER TO STAY WITH US ON AN AMENDMENT SUGGESTING SELF-DETERMINATION THAN THEY WOULD ON A UK DRAFT.

5. I REALIZE THAT IT WILL SEEM UNFAIR THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PUSH THE ARGENTINES OFF AT LEAST PART OF THE TURF. BUT WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THE ODDS ARE WEIGHTED AGAINST US HERE. OUR BEST TACTIC SINCE 1982 HAS BEEN TO ALLOW THE ARGENTINES THE INITIATIVE AND TO ARGUE THAT THEY ARE BEING UNREASONABLE IN FAILING TO MENTION SELF-DETERMINATION AND IN INSISTING ON DISCUSSING SOVEREIGNTY. OUR BEST TACTIC NOW MUST BE TO TRY TO HEAD OFF A SOFT ARGENTINE TEXT. WHICH BRINGS ME BACK TO UKMIS TELNO 985.

THOMSON

FALKLAND ISLANDS LIMITED

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