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INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, AND OTHER EC POSTS

FALKLANDS AT UNGA: FRENCH VOTE

1. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR CALLED, ON INSTRUCTIONS, ON THE PUS THIS MORNING WITH AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM M DUMAS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE (TEXT IN MIFT).
2. VIOT SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE ACCEPTED THAT THE MESSAGE WAS SOMEWHAT INEXPLICIT, HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT FRANCE WOULD VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE ARGENTINE DRAFT RESOLUTION. HE DID NOT BELIEVE FRANCE WOULD CO-SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION, NOR LOBBY IN ITS FAVOUR. FRANCE WOULD ONLY TELL OTHER COUNTRIES OF HER POSITION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. HE CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE'S POSITION ON THE BASIC ISSUES REMAINED AS BEFORE: FRANCE DID NOT TAKE A VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY. BUT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WISHED TO ADOPT TACTICS WHICH WOULD 'ENCOURAGE THE TRENDS IN THE PRESENT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'.
3. THE PUS REHEARSED OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ARGENTINE 'SOFT' RESOLUTION ON STANDARD LINES. HE EXPRESSED THE STRONG HOPE THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION OR ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO VOTE IN ITS FAVOUR AND THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT REVEAL IN ADVANCE THEIR DECISION TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION. SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE REGARDED AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. WE WERE

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CONSIDERING TABLING AMENDMENTS TO ANY SUCH ARGENTINE RESOLUTION, WHICH WOULD INSIST ON THE VITAL PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IF THE RESOLUTION WERE TO BE ADOPTED, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT BRITAIN WOULD ABSTAIN. OUR HOPE WAS THAT OUR AMENDMENT WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. VIOT SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THESE CONCERNS TO PARIS IMMEDIATELY. HE REITERATED THAT FRANCE HAD NO INTENTION OF SEEKING TO ALIGN OTHERS BEHIND THE RESOLUTION. HE HOPED THAT THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS, BOTH IN NEW YORK AND IN CAPITALS.

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