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FM MADRID

TO DESKEY 070900Z FCO

TELNO 830

OF 062030Z NOVEMBER 86

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS, BISBA, MONTEVIDEO, PORT STANLEY

INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, TOKYO, SEOUL, WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY HAVANA, LIMA, QUITO.

YOUR TELNO. 186: SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAW ME THIS EVENING AT VERY SHORT NOTICE.
2. I TOLD FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ I WAS ANXIOUS THERE SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE SPANISH SIDE ABOUT THE MEASURES WE HAD TAKEN. I THEN TOOK HIM THROUGH PARAGRAPH 2 OF YOUR TELNO 198 TO BERNE, AND GAVE HIM A PIECE OF PAPER BASED ON THIS. I EMPHASISED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN OUR DECLARATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO A 200 MILE FISHERY LIMIT, AND THE 150 MILE FICZ. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REALISE THAT SINCE THE LATTER WAS PRACTICALLY CO-TERMINOUS WITH THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE, THERE WAS NO INCREASED DANGER OF TENSION OR INCIDENTS. OUR INTENTIONS WERE WHOLLY PACIFIC. WE HAD BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO TRY TO SEEK A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ARGENTINES AND OTHERS AND I REFERRED AGAIN TO YOUR OWN APPROACHES TO CAPUTO. WE STILL REMAINED VERY MUCH IN FAVOUR OF A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND I EMPHASISED THAT WE REGARDED OUR MEASURES AS INTERIM ONES.
3. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ TOLD ME HE UNDERSTOOD ALL THIS. HE WAS QUITE AWARE OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN VARIOUS ZONES I HAD DESCRIBED AND HE DREW A LITTLE MAP TO PROVE IT. HE OBSERVED THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WAS THAT THE ARGENTINES DID NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR MEASURES WERE INTERIM ONES.
4. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT OUR ACTION NEVERTHELESS POSED GRAVE DIFFICULTIES FOR SPAIN. HE REFERRED TO THE 38 SPANISH VESSELS FISHING IN SOUTH ATLANTIC WATERS, WHICH WERE NOW FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF GETTING A LICENCE. I SAID THAT WHEN WE HAD MADE EARLIER REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT FISHERY RESTRAINT TO THE SPANISH MFA AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO CONTROL OVER WHAT THEIR FISHERMEN DID. IF THE FISHERMEN NOW WANTED TO APPLY FOR LICENCES SURELY THIS WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH GOVERNMENT EITHER, AND THE FORMAL SPANISH POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY WOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED.
5. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ DID NOT CONTEST THIS SPEAKING IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, HE IMPLIED THAT IF THE FISHERMEN WERE TO APPLY FOR LICENCES TO WHOEVER THE LICENCING AUTHORITY WAS, THAT WAS THEIR BUSINESS. AS HE SAW IT THE REAL PROBLEM FOR SPAIN, AND HE EMPHASISED ITS SERIOUSNESS, LAY FURTHER AHEAD. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EC COMMISSION HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF OUR MEASURES. IF THE

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COMMISSION WERE NOW TO OPEN A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION LEADING TO AN AGREEMENT WITH US, HE DID NOT SEE HOW SPAIN COULD SUBSCRIBE TO THIS. SPAIN DID NOT WANT AN AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINA EITHER. THE ARGENTINES HAD PRESSED THEM VERY HARD, BUT THE SPANIARDS HAD ALL ALONG REFUSED TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANTED. BUT HE WAS DISTURBED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACTION BY THE COMMISSION WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE SPANIARDS IN A SERIOUS QUANDRY. HE FRANKLY DID NOT SEE A WAY AROUND THIS AT THE MOMENT, AND IT PERPLEXED HIM GREATLY.

6. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ REFERRED TO THE VISIT WHICH SABATO, THE ARGENTINE MINISTER OF STATE, HAD PAID TO MADRID TODAY. HE HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION FROM SABATO THAT WHILE THE ARGENTINES WOULD NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO MAKE A VERBAL FUSS, THEY WOULD NOT DO MUCH IN THE WAY OF SPECIFIC ACTION. SABATO HAD TOLD HIM THAT A SENIOR MILITARY COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ARGENTINA TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR MEASURES, AND HAD INSTRUCTED ARGENTINE VESSELS NOT TO ENTER THE 150 MILE ZONE. HE ALSO SAID THAT SABATO HAD NOT ASKED THE SPANIARDS TO RAISE THE MATTER IN THE EC.

7. LAIGLESIA, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LATIN AMERICA, WAS WITH FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ. ON THE WAY OUT, HE CONFIRMED TO ME, AGAIN IN CONFIDENCE, THAT IF SPANISH VESSELS WISHED TO APPLY FOR LICENCES THE BEST THING MIGHT BE TO REGARD THIS AS THEIR BUSINESS. THE SPANIARDS WOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO STATE THEIR LEGAL POSITION FIRMLY WHEN OBLIGED TO DO SO, AS FELIPE GONZALEZ HAD DONE (SEE MY TUR) WHEN HE SAW THE LATIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS YESTERDAY. ON THIS LAIGLESIA CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS STILL NO DEFINATE VERSION OF WHAT FELIPE GONZALEZ HAD ACTUALLY SAID. IN GENERAL THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN CONCERNED TO STATE PRINCIPLES WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS. I SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO A PRESS AGENCY REPORT THIS EVENING, SABATO HAD QUOTED FELIPE GONZALEZ AS SAYING THAT SPAIN WOULD "NOT ASK FOR LICENCES TO FISH WITHIN OUR 150 MILE ZONE". LAIGLESIA HAD SAID THAT FELIPE GONZALEZ HAD NOT SAID THIS. IT WAS A PIECE OF JOURNALISTIC EMBROIDERY.

GORDON LENNOX

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FCO PASS ALL

MCLNAN 4551

( Repetition to Buenos Aires  
referred to \_\_\_\_\_  
repeated as requested to other posts. )

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-2-  
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