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TELEGRAM NUMBER 194 OF 9 NOVEMBER

SIR-SIBULAND

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MY TELNO 193: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE VICE PRIME MINISTER

1. FREITAS DO AMARAL TOLD THE PORTUGUESE PRESS ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON THAT HIS CONVERSATIONS WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THREE TOPICS:

A) HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE BRITAIN TO CHANGE ITS VOTE ON THE UN RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR FROM ABSTENTION TO A VOTE IN FAVOUR.

B) HE WOULD PRESS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON THE FRIGATE PROGRAMME.

C) HE WOULD STRESS THE NEED TO SEPARATE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS (SEE MY TUR).

2. I BELIEVE THAT A) IS LARGELY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION, AND THE PORTUGUESE WILL BE CONTENT WITH A CONTINUED ABSTENTION ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD MAKE A HELPFUL DECLARATION OF VOTE. B) AND C) WILL BE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO FREITAS DO AMARAL.

3. ON OUR SIDE I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER RAISE THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR BRITISH FARMERS ON WHICH THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO PROGRESS.

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 193 OF 8 NOVEMBER

MY TELNO 192: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE VICE PRIME MINISTER

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH FREITAS DO AMARAL BEFORE HE LEFT LISBON THIS AFTERNOON EN ROUTE FOR LONDON, HE TOLD ME HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WITH MRS THATCHER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS FOR ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAD TOLD PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATORS THAT THEY REGARDED UP TO 80 PER CENT OF PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS AS NOW BEING COMPLETE, OR VIRTUALLY COMPLETE. HOWEVER, ONLY SOME 10 PER CENT OF SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS HAD REACHED THE SAME STAGE. FREITAS DO AMARAL CONFIRMED THAT PORTUGAL'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE WAS TO OBTAIN A SIGNED TREATY, IF POSSIBLE IN FIRST HALF OF 1983. THEREAFTER PORTUGAL WOULD BE PREPARED TO WAIT A WHILE FOR SPAIN BUT (FOR PORTUGUESE INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS) NOT BEYOND 12 TO 18 MONTHS. THE TWO NEGOTIATING PROCESSES WERE SEPARATE AND WOULD BE SEEN AS SUCH. BRACKETTING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS WAS ACCEPTABLE FOR THE TIME BEING BUT IF IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IT WOULD IMPOSE MORE THAN 18 MONTHS' DELAY ON PORTUGUESE ENTRY QUESTION OF DE-LINKING SHOULD BE EXAMINED.

BYATT

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