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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 052350Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 405 OF 5 APRIL 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA.

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MY TELNO 393: FALKLANDS AT THE UN.

1. MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE CONCENTRATED ON POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTIVITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I HAVE SINCE CONSIDERED WHAT WE MIGHT DO IN VARIOUS LESSER UN BODIES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SUPPORT HERE FOR OUR POSITION, WRONG-FOOT THE ARGENTINES AND GENERATE PUBLICITY IN THE UK WITHOUT INCURRING THE DANGERS IDENTIFIED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE.

2. THERE ARE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES:

(A) HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

I HAVE CONSIDERED SENDING THE SECRETARY GENERAL A LETTER, WHICH WOULD BE CIRCULATED AS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT, DRAWING ATTENTION TO ARGENTINE ACTIONS IN THE FALKLANDS WHICH VIOLATE THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS AND DENY THEM THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. BUT TO WRITE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT THIS TIME WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE ADVICE I GAVE TO HIM EARLIER TODAY, WHICH HE ACCEPTED AND WHICH URQUHART IS REINFORCING, THAT HE SHOULD KEEP OUT THE GAME FOR THE MOMENT (MY TELNO 396). THERE IS HOWEVER AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF PROCEEDING. THIS WOULD BE TO ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE ABOUT ARGENTINE ACTIONS IN THE ISLANDS. THIS WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO DELEGATIONS THROUGH THE DPI MACHINERY AND I WOULD SEND IT UNDER PERSONAL LETTER TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL PLUS PERHAPS THOSE OF THE COMMONWEALTH. I RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD NEED TO BE SURE OF OUR FACTS. WE HAVE SEEN VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS HERE ABOUT CHANGES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS, CONFISCATION OF RADIO SETS, SUBSTITUTION OF SPANISH FOR ENGLISH AND SO ON. IF YOU AGREE WITH MY RECOMMENDATION, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AS MANY SPECIFIC AND AUTHORITATIVE EXAMPLES AS YOU CAN PROVIDE.

(B) SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NON-USE OF FORCE (WOTONUF)

THIS COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY IN SESSION. WE ARE INSCRIBED TO SPEAK ON 7 APRIL. IT WOULD BE PREPOSTEROUS FOR US TO SAY NOTHING IN OUR STATEMENT ABOUT THE FLAGRANT USE OF FORCE BY THE ARGENTINES AGAINST A BRITISH TERRITORY. I RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE THIS THE MAIN THEME OF OUR STATEMENT AND THAT, IN ORDER NOT TO CONFUSE THE ISSUE, WE SHOULD DROP OUR USUAL ASSAULT ON THE RUSSIANS OVER THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, AFGHANISTAN, ETC. OUR SPEECH WOULD OF COURSE PROVOKE REJOINDERS FROM THE ARGENTINES AND THEIR FRIENDS, INCLUDING CALLS ON US NOT TO USE FORCE IN OUR TURN, BUT AS THE WOTONUF COMMITTEE WOULD NOT ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT, THIS COURSE WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE DANGERS DESCRIBED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE.

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(C) COMMITTEE OF 24

THIS COMMITTEE IS LIKELY TO HOLD THE FIRST MEETING OF ITS SPRING SESSION THIS WEEK I EXPECT (AND WE COULD PROBABLY ARRANGE FOR) THE CHAIRMAN (ABDULAH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) TO REFER IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO THE INVASION OF ONE OF THE COMMITTEE'S TERRITORIES AND TO THE STATEMENT HE ISSUED ON 2 APRIL (COPY SENT BY FACSIMILE TO BRIGHT SAMD), I RECOMMEND THAT I SHOULD ARRANGE WITH ABDULAH THAT I (OR WHYTE IF I AM STILL IN THE UK) SHOULD SPEAK IMMEDIATELY AFTER ABDULAH'S OPENING REMARKS TO GIVE OUR ACCOUNT OF THE INVASION, TO DESCRIBE WHY WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SUPPLY ARTICLE 73(E) INFORMATION THIS YEAR AND TO DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS OF THE OCCUPYING POWER, WHICH, I WOULD ARGUE, ARE AGAINST THE INTERESTS AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE AND CONTRAVENE THE CHARTER AND THE SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION 1514. THIS TOO WOULD PROVOKE REJOINDERS, BUT, AS IN THE WOTONUF COMMITTEE, I DO NOT THINK THAT THAT WOULD MATTER UNDULY. A GREATER DANGER IS THAT SOMEONE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE COMMITTEE ADOPT A RESOLUTION EITHER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ARGENTINE ACTION CONSTITUTED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION IN THE FALKLANDS, OR CALLING ON BOTH PARTIES TO DESIST FROM ANY FURTHER USE OF FORCE. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE A VERY NASTY BUNCH AND ONE OF THESE PROPOSITIONS MIGHT JUST COMMAND A MAJORITY, ESPECIALLY IF WE WERE THEN ON THE DEFENSIVE HERE AS A RESULT OF OUR NAVAL PREPARATIONS. BUT THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT NORMALLY ADOPT A DECISION ON THE FALKLANDS UNTIL ITS SESSION IN AUGUST AND ON BALANCE I THINK THAT THE RISK IS WORTH TAKING.

(D) SPRING ECOSOC

THIS BEGINS ON 13 APRIL. IT WILL TAKE THE REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND ITS WORKING GROUP WILL CONSIDER AROUND 20 APRIL OUR REPORT IN RESPECT OF INTER ALIA THE FALKLANDS UNDER ARTICLES 13-15 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. THIS SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ARGENTINA'S DREADFUL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO DEFER MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL NEARER THE TIME.

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