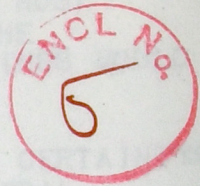


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CWG299 06/1930 096C4936

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 061515Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
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FM BONN 061515Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TEL NO 303 OF 6 APRIL
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK (SITCEN AND DI4)
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON PARIS UKDEL NATO AND UKMIS NEW YORK
THE FALKLANDS

1. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, BECKER SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND

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ARGENTINA WITH GREAT CONCERN. GERMANY SHARED BRITAIN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE LEGAL POSITION AND CONDEMNED THE ARGENTINE INVASION. ARGENTINA HAD VIOLATED THE FUNDAMENTAL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR EXPECTED FROM ALL COUNTRIES, TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AND TO EXERCISE MODERATION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. THE EC DECLARATION OF 2 APRIL HAD REFLECTED THIS. BECKER DESCRIBED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CLOSE CONTACTS WITH HMG ON THE QUESTION.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF GERMAN ARMS DELIVERIES TO ARGENTINA, BECKER SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONTRACTS FOR NAVAL VESSELS FOR ARGENTINA, SOME OF WHICH WERE TO BE COMPLETED IN GERMANY, SOME TO BE ASSEMBLED IN ARGENTINA. THERE WAS ALSO A CONTRACT FOR AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPON ARMED WITH 20MM CANNONS: THIS CONTRACT HAD BEEN APPROVED. TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION WHETHER OTHER NAVAL EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DELIVERED TO ARGENTINA FOLLOWING THE LATEST TURN OF EVENTS BECKER SAID THAT THIS REQUIRED FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATION.

3. QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER GERMAN SUBMARINES HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE ARGENTINE NAVY, BECKER ANSWERED THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAD SUPPLIED

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ARGENTINA, AMONG THEM THE UNITED KINGDOM. ON FURTHER QUESTIONING AS TO WHETHER SUBMARINES OR SUBMARINE COMPONENTS FOR ARGENTINA CURRENTLY BEING CONSTRUCTED IN GERMANY WOULD BE DELIVERED, BECKER

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SAID THAT SUCH DELIVERIES WERE SPREAD OVER SEVERAL YEARS. ACCORDING TO THE ARMS CONTROL LAW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST GIVE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AN ULTIMATUM TO EVACUATE THE FALKLANDS. IF SHE DID NOT COMPLY, THE DELIVERY OF SUBMARINES WOULD BE SUSPENDED.

4. THE DEFENCE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WAS UNABLE TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER ARGENTINE SAILORS WERE BEING TRAINED BY THE FEDERAL ARMED FORCES, BUT HE THOUGHT NOT. THE BUNDESWEHR TRAINED THE FORCES OF VARIOUS NATIONS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROVAL.

5. ASKED WHETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN THE DISPUTE, BECKER SAID NOT: GERMANY WAS NOT A WORLD POWER, ONLY A MEDIUM EUROPEAN POWER.

6. WE ARE PURSUING QUESTIONS IN PARAS 2-4 FURTHER WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTRIES CONCERNED.

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TAYLOR
BT

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