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FM UKDEL NATO 061542Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 165 OF 6 APRIL

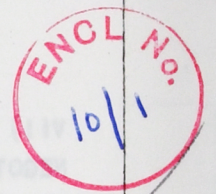
AND TO IMMEDIATE MOD

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKREP BRUSSELS UKMIS NEW YORK

PRIORITY MOSCOW THE HAGUE OSLO COPENHAGEN PARIS ROME ATHENS ANKARA

LUXEMBOURG BONN LISBON OTTAWA

INFO SAVING REYKJAVIK BRUSSELS



YOUR TELNO 63 TO ANKARA: THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. AT TODAY'S LUNCHEON OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES LUNS OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY SPEAKING OF ARGENTINA'S QUOTE NAKED AGGRESSION UNQUOTE AGAINST THE UNITED KINGDOM. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WOULD SYMPATHISE WITH THE UK AND WISH US ALL SUCCESS. BRITAIN WAS RIGHT TO MARSHALL OVERWHELMING STRENGTH; THOUGH THE POSITION WAS DIFFICULT ALL WOULD BE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE FACE OF THIS UNWARRANTED AND SCANDALOUS ATTACK. IN THE DIPLOMATIC ARENA BRITAIN HAD ACHIEVED A REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR WHICH THANKS WAS DUE TO THE ALLIES INCLUDING ESPECIALLY FRANCE.

2. FINALLY, LUNS SAID THAT ALL WOULD REGRET DEEPLY THE DEPARTURE OF LORD CARRINGTON. HE HAD SENT HIM A MESSAGE AND ALSO A MESSAGE TO YOU AS HIS SUCCESSOR, WHOM OF COURSE HE KNEW WELL AND WELCOMED.

3. AFTER THANKING LUNS, I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- I) THE TASK FORCE WAS BEING DESPATCHED IN ORDER TO PUT OURSELVES IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE A NUMBER OF MILITARY OPTIONS SEMI-COLON
- II) NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN ABOUT THE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE PURSUED WHEN THE FORCE REACHED THE AREA SEMI-COLON IT MUST ALWAYS BE HOPED THAT A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND SEMI-COLON
- III) CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD CENTRED ON THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION EARLIER, ALTHOUGH THE DIFFICULTIES WERE OBVIOUS, EG DISTANCE, MAINTENANCE OF A LARGE FORCE AT SEA, THE READING OF ARGENTINA'S INTENTIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A SUCCESSFUL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, ETC SEMI-COLON
- IV) THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE ARGENTINE DECISION TO EXPLOIT THE INCIDENT ON SOUTH GEORGIA HAD BEEN TAKEN BARELY 10 DAYS AGO, TOO SHORT A PERIOD, EVEN IF WE HAD KNOWN OF IT AS SOON AS IT WAS TAKEN, FOR US TO SEND AN EFFECTIVE FORCE TO PREVENT THE OPERATION SEMI-COLON
- V) THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WERE TOTALLY DETERMINED TO RESTORE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SEMI-COLON
- VI) WE HAD THE BACKING OF A MANDATORY RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING FOR AN END TO HOSTILITIES, ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL AND NEGOTIATIONS. WE WERE GRATEFUL TO OUR ALLIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN THE COUNCIL TO ACHIEVE THIS SEMI-COLON

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VII) THERE WERE SOME SIGNS THAT ARGENTINE WAS READY FOR NEGOTIATION BUT NOT, YET, FOR WITHDRAWAL:

VIII) FOR US, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ARGENTINE SHOULD ACCEPT THE THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE AND CARRY IT OUT.

4. I SAID THAT BRITAIN HAD TAKEN CERTAIN MEASURES:

- A) DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN BROKEN:
- B) ARGENTINE ASSETS IN THE U K HAD BEEN FROZEN:
- C) EXPORT CREDITS HAD BEEN STOPPED:
- D) THE EXPORT OF ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN EMBARGOED:
- E) BRITISH SUBJECTS HAD BEEN ADVISED TO CONSIDER LEAVING ARGENTINA.

5. APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE IN FRIENDLY AND ALLIED CAPITALS ASKING EACH GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER WHAT ACTION THEY COULD TAKE TO BRING HOME TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THE INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF THEIR RESORT TO FORCE. WE HOPED THAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE, WITHDRAWING AMBASSADORS FOR CONSULTATIONS, AN EFFECTIVE DEMONSTRATION IF CARRIED OUT ON SUFFICIENTLY WIDE A SCALE: AND THE SUSPENSION OF ALL DELIVERIES OF ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND OF EXPORT CREDIT AND GUARANTEES. THE FREEZING OF ARGENTINE FUNDS IN BRITAIN WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ARGENTINA TO RAISE MONEY ABROAD: WE HOPED THAT COMMERCIAL BANKS COULD BE ADVISED TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE. EVEN IF GOVERNMENTS HAD DIFFICULTY IN ACTING ON THESE LINES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THEY COULD STATE THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING SUCH ACTION. THE MATTER WAS URGENT: WE HAD A SHORT BREATHING SPACE BEFORE THE TASK FORCE WOULD ARRIVE AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BRING HOME TO THE ARGENTINES IN THE INTERVAL THE NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

6. FINALLY, I GAVE A SHORT ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE ON THE LINES OF MOSCOW TELNO 176 TO YOU.

7. VAN USSEL (BELGIUM) SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CONSIDERING ITS RESPONSE ON 7 APRIL. ARMS SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA HAD BEEN STOPPED SOME TIME AGO. HE HOPED WE COULD HAVE A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE NA COUNCIL TOMORROW.

8. VIBE (NORWAY) REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE LINES OF OSLO TELNO 63 TO YOU.

9. WIECK (FRG) SAID THAT THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAD SEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT IN TURN. THE LATTER, AFTER EXPLAINING ARGENTINA'S POSITION AND SAYING THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE TEN'S STATEMENT, SAID THAT ARGENTINA WOULD RESIST A BRITISH ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BY ALL MEANS.

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HE ASSUMED THAT LATIN AMERICA AND ESPECIALLY BRAZIL WOULD BE ON ARGENTINA'S SIDE AND HE HOPED THAT HER FRIENDS IN THE WEST WOULD UNDERSTAND. EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING ARGENTINA'S FORCES IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WAS NEGOTIABLE EXCEPT FINAL RECOGNITION OF ARGENTINA'S SOVEREIGNTY. WIECK SAID THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE THAT THE FRG PRESIDENT WHO WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LONDON, WAS VISITING BRAZIL AT THIS TIME, AND WOULD BE ARGUING STRONGLY, ON THE BASIS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

10. DE HOOP SCHEFFER (NETHERLANDS) SAID THAT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN THE HAGUE HAD BEEN SUMMONED ON 2 APRIL. THE NETHERLANDS WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE BRITISH APPROACH BUT, LIKE BELGIUM, HAD NOT SUPPLIED ARMS TO ARGENTINE FOR SOME TIME. HALSTEAD (CANADA) REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AND THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS RESOLUTION.

FCO PASS ALL AND SAVING REYKJAVIK

GRAHAM

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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