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FROM UKDIS GENEVA 081350Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 25 OF 8 APRIL

INFO UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO

YOUR TELNO 23: FALKLAND ISLANDS (NOT TO ALL)

1. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN PLENARY TODAY. MY STATEMENT PROVOKED A LIVELY AND, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, HIGHLY SATISFACTORY DEBATE. STRONG STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT WERE MADE BY BELGIUM (ON BEHALF OF THE TEN AS AGREED - UKMIS GENEVA TELNO 162 TO YOU OF 8 APRIL), NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, ITALY, FRG, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND USA. ARGENTINA IN EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF REPLY MADE A BLUSTERING STATEMENT ASSERTING ARGENTINE HISTORIC RIGHTS, CLAIMING THAT THEY STILL WANTED TO MAINTAIN BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE (SIC) AND THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE, EXCEPT ON SOVEREIGNTY.

2. OTHER SPEAKERS WERE PERU, VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, KENYA, CUBA, MEXICO, INDIA (NOTABLY WEAK), INDONESIA AND IRAN. SEVERAL SPEAKERS REFERRED TO THE POSITION OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT ON COLONIALISM AND THEIR OWN WELL KNOWN POSITIONS FAVOURING ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY. SOME ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE TOPIC WAS OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF THE COMMITTEE: MOST EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE SETTLED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. BUT NOT A SINGLE NON-ALIGNED SPEAKER HAD ANYTHING TO SAY IN SUPPORT OF ARGENTINA'S ACTIONS. NO MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST BLOC SPOKE.

3. THE GENERAL VIEW IN THE WESTERN GROUP WAS THAT THE DEBATE HAD GONE VERY WELL FOR US. THERE IS NO FURTHER PLENARY UNTIL THURSDAY, 15 APRIL.

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CABINET OFFICE

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