

CONFIDENTIAL

1) LAST RESORT. BRITAIN REFERRED TO THE USE OF FORCE AS A LAST RESORT. BUT ARGENTINA HAD NEGOTIATED PATIENTLY FOR 17 YEARS, WITHOUT PROGRESS. IT TOO WAS RESORTING TO FORCE AS A LAST RESORT. WHAT DID BRITAIN IMAGINE OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD THINK IF THEY RESORTED TO FORCE? SEMEONOV HOPED THAT BRITAIN'S WISDOM AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WOULD PREVAIL AND IT WOULD SEEK PEACEFUL MEANS TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE. HE QUOTED A SECTION FROM GROMYKO'S SPEECH IN BELGRADE ON 4 APRIL CALLING FOR A CONSIDERED APPROACH TO DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES AND A CALM, CAREFULLY WEIGHED CONDUCT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. I REITERATED THAT WE WERE SEEKING A PEACEFUL OUTCOME ON THE BASIS OF THE UN RESOLUTION BUT WERE TAKING ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS.

3. I ASKED SEMEONOV WHAT WAS THE STATUS OF THE MFA STATEMENT TELEPHONED TO WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES ON 7 APRIL. SEMEONOV EXPLAINED THAT JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN ENQUIRING ABOUT THE SOVIET POSITION. THE ONLY OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET POSITION WAS CONTAINED IN TROYANOVSKY'S SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS (SEMEONOV READ THIS IN FULL). THE MFA STATEMENT WAS AN AUTHORITATIVE REPETITION OF TROYANOVSKY. IT IS IN FACT A CONDENSATION OF TROYANOVSKY'S SPEECH WHICH ADDS NOTHING.

4. NEITHER I NOR SEMEONOV RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRISIS FOR THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY (FCO TELNO 665 TO WASHINGTON).

BROOKE TURNER

FCO
S AM D
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES TO

PS/CHANCELLOR }
SIR K COUZENS }
MR LITTLER }
MR HAWTIN }
MR PERETZ }
MR ILETT }

)} TREASURY

MISS DICKSON EIP DIV D/ENERGY

-3-

CONFIDENTIAL