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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 (AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5806

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~ ROME 08716

EXDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O.12065: RDS-1 4/8/2002 (HORNBLow, MICHAEL)

TAGS: PBOR, VT, CI, AR, UK, US

SUBJECT: THE FALKLAND ISLANDS--BEAGLE CHANNEL CONNECTION

1. (~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. I MET WITH AMBASSADOR BERNSTEIN THE HEAD OF THE CHILEAN BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATING TEAM ON APRIL 8 TO DISCUSS THE BEAGLE CHANNEL MEDIATION AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE.

3. AFTER SOME INITIAL RELUCTANCE, BERNSTEIN AGREED THAT THERE WAS A DEFINITE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO. HE THEN READ TO ME FROM A CABLE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES. ACCORDING TO THIS CABLE THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR MET WITH THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ON APRIL 1ST. THE ARGENTINE FM ASKED FOR CHILE'S SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY. IN RETURN FOR CHILE'S SUPPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RIO TREATY, ARGENTINA

~~SECRET~~

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WOULD BE PREPARED TO BE MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL MEDIATION.

4. BERNSTEIN OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS A CLEVER MOVE ON ARGENTINA'S PART. FOR CHILE THE RIO PACT WAS BASIC AND IT MIGHT BE HARD TO TURN DOWN ARGENTINA'S PROPOSAL. BERNSTEIN NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE ARGENTINE AMBAS-

Declassified by Oscar J Olson

Senior Reviewer

Declassified on 20111117

SADOR TO THE BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATIONS HAD RECENTLY BE-
COME MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING.

5. THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PROBLEM ASIDE, BERNSTEIN WAS
VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE BEAGLE MEDIATION. CHILE HAS
SET A SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE OF AUGUST 1. THE POPE WILL
MITH BOTH DELEGATIONS AFTER EASTER AND EXHORT THEM
TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. ARGENTINA IS NOW TRYING TO SEEK
A REPLACEMENT FOR THE 1972 MONTEVIDEO ACCORD WITHIN THE
BEAGLE CHANNEL MEDIATION FRAMEWORK. BERNSTEIN DOES NOT
SEE ANY CHANCE OF AGREEMENT ON A SUBSTITUTE TREATY BY THE
AUGUST 1ST DEADLINE. AND AT THE RATE THE MEDIATION IS
GOING HE SEES NO CHANCE OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS BY AUGUST
1ST. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO BERNSTEIN, THE PROSPECTS
ARE (THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE NOTWITHSTANDING) THAT
CHILE WILL TAKE THE BEAGLE CHANNEL PROBLEM TO THE WORLD
COURT ON AUGUST 1ST AND THE VATICAN MEDIATION ATTEMPT
WILL FAIL. WILSON

SECRET

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