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# TELEGRAM

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	UNCLASSIFIED

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SECTO 5039

~~UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES~~

STATE FOR PA AND PA/PRESS, DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR JUDGE CLARK,  
 AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. SPEAKES

ICA FOR PGM DIRECTOR HUGHES

Dean Fischer's on the record briefing for the press at  
 4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 10:

QUOTE - Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I wanted  
 to take this opportunity to meet with you briefly. I  
 think you know about the two meetings that were held  
 this morning, the first with the Foreign Minister and  
 the Secretary of State followed by a meeting of the  
 President and the Secretary of State. In addition to  
 meetings that will resume with the President, and  
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which the Secretary of State will be having at 6:00 this evening followed by dinner with the President, Secretary and members of their parties, the Secretary will be having a meeting with the Foreign Minister at 4:30 this afternoon. That is all that I have for you unless you have some questions for me.

Q - What happened at the meeting with President Galtieri . . . (Garbled).

A - I am not going to try to characterize the meeting while they're still in process.

Q - Is the U.S. Delegation leaving tonight?

A - No, we have no plans to leave tonight. We still expect to be returning to Washington tomorrow.

Q - Where is the meeting with the Secretary and the Foreign Minister?

A - I understand it will be at the Foreign Ministry.

Q - (Garbled) . . . . Has the Secretary expressed any opinion on the demonstrations at all?

A - No, I did not hear him personally express any opinion. Obviously it was a large and friendly crowd, but I did not personally hear him express an opinion . . .

Q - Is there any chance that he'll fly back to London rather than on to (unintelligible) . . .

A - Our plan, as I said, is that we expect to be returning to



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with Mrs. Thatcher or with any other British official.

Q - Do you expect the naval blockade at this moment to proceed?

A - I really don't want to comment on that. As I say the Secretary is here to try to be as helpful as possible to peacefully resolve the dispute.

Q - Do you have any idea where the British fleet is at this moment?

A - No, I do not.

Q - Mr. Fischer, where will Secretary Haig . . . (Garbled) after the . . . (Garbled) meetings with Mrs. Thatcher and President Galtieri?

A - It's too early for me to try to predict that.

Q - Dean, do you expect any . . . (Garbled)

A - Again I, it is possible but I just can't predict at this point. I would not want to rule it out but I think we have to await the outcome of the talks.

Q - He said that he had heard there had been a report that you were leaving tonight but instead it has been announced that you are leaving at 7:00 o'clock tomorrow. Does this prolongation of your visit mean anything?

A - No, we had always intended to leave sometime tomorrow.

Q - Dean, how long did the meetings last?

A - The first meeting at the Foreign Ministry lasted

approximately 50 minutes. The meeting with the President

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~~whether they have advanced, progressed, or have they~~

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lasted about 1 3/4 hours.

Q - After the negotiations have started, can you tell us whether they have advanced, progressed, or have they stalemated?

A - Well, I don't want to use the word negotiation in connection with this . . . As I said the Secretary is simply trying to listen to the views of both the British and the Argentines in respect to this dispute and to be of any assistance he can in the resolution of it.

Q - Secretary Haig said yesterday that Argentina and Britain were friends of the United States. After today's talks can he, is he still of the same view?

A - Yes, of course.

Q - The Secretary of State has said that he was impressed by Mrs. Thatcher's position towards this situation. Is ~~he~~ he impressed as well by the President (presence?) of the Argentine people today in Plaza de Mayo?

A - Well, just to clarify something. I think the Secretary when he left London, or shortly before he left London, said he was impressed with the determination of the British Government.

Q - And about the determination of the Argentine

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people going to the Plaza de Mayo, did he say anything about it?

A - No, as I said earlier, I did not personally hear him characterize the crowd.

Q - Is the United States aid to Argentina total and unconditional?

A - United States aid to Argentina? Total and unconditional?

Q - Overall aid--in every sense?

A - Well, whatever programs we have with Argentina are continuing if I understand your question correctly.

Q - I'll try to translate to you Sir. The Secretary of State is not only a member of the United States

Government but also a General of your Army. As a

General do you ever hear him make any comments about

the following subjects: No. 1 - Whether it would destabilize NATO by sending Great Britain so many ships towards the South out of its natural reach, I would say.

Second - Whether the presence of the British Army in

this place would sort of be watched by Soviet ships

and make, ah, some sort of suministration of information

to the Soviet people that perhaps they didn't have up

to this time. And the third subject would be, as a

soldier he says or he agrees on such a reaction from

Great Britain . . . Three points.

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A - My answer will be the same to each. I'm not going to try to comment on any of those points other than to reiterate the Secretary's purpose is to be as helpful as he possibly can in resolving this dispute.

Q - The Argentine people has a right to know, he feels in what stage the talks are now and taking into account Mrs. Thatcher's tough stand how far can the Argentine people continue to expect help from the United States?

A - Well, of course, I can understand that the Argentine people have the right to understand how the talks are going. What I said was that I do not wish to characterize the talks while they are continuing. . . . While they are in progress.

Q - The European Community has adopted a series of sanctions against Argentina. They want to know what your views . . .

A - Again, I am not going to comment on what steps other countries have taken. It serves no useful purpose for me to try to do that in light of what I described as the Secretary's purpose in being here.

Q - Do you think that the fact that he found the tenant of Downing Street, probably Mrs. Thatcher and a few dozens or hundred of journalists and nothing else and coming to the Plaza de Mayo and meeting about a million

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and a half people, do you think that would impress in a particular way your Secretary of State?

A - Well, other than what I said before that it was obviously a very large and friendly crowd . . . (Garbled). I really, I'll take one more question, then I've got to leave . . .

Q - Has Secretary Haig suggested to the Argentine Government that it withdraw its troops from the Falkland Islands?

A - No, I don't want to. By the no I mean that I don't want to comment in any way about the nature of the talks. (Garbled)

CROSS - Thank you very much but Dean Fischer has to be on his way with the Secretary to his next appointment. Thank you.

Q - Will the parties be discussing this afternoon the possibilities of alternatives or what?

A - I just don't want to characterize the talks at all at this point.

Q - But this involves more than just the top leaders, is that right?

This involves talks at the lower level too.

A - Yes, there are talks going on . . .

Q - And what's the makeup of the committee?



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A - I don't know who is representing the Argentinians in the discussions, but I can give you the names of the Americans . . . .

Q - Yes, please do.

A - Well, I . . . even to call it a working party I think is somewhat misleading. There was a meeting as I understood it at the Foreign Ministry that started at about 3:30 and it is that meeting which Secretary Haig will join at 4:30 with the Argentine (Garbled).

Q - What is your opinion of the Argentine people?

A - Well, I have to be impressed by the size of the crowd today and that very friendly atmosphere that prevailed there. (Garbled) I really have to go. (Garbled conversations while exiting the room, not substantive except for the following comment:

Q - What are (Costa Mendez's) dinner plans tonight?

A - He's having dinner with the President.

Q - That's definite?(Garbled).

A - I assume at the Presidential Palace. - UNQUOTE.

HAIG

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