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YOUR TELNO 681: SENIOR US VISITS TO BUENOS AIRES.

- EAGLEBURGER TOLD MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON THAT ALTHOUGH GENERAL ALLEN'S PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING OF AIR CHIEFS OF THE AMERICAS IN BUENOS AIRES THIS WEEK HAD BEEN PUT ON HOLD OVER THE WEEKEND AFTER FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS BY US HERE, HAIG HAD FINALLY FELT OBLIGED TO LET IT TAKE PLACE. GENERAL ALLEN HAD BEEN GIVEN CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HOW HE WAS TO BEHAVE AND EAGLEBURGER CONFIRMED THAT, AT LEAST IN PRIVATE, HE WOULD SPEAK OUT STRONGLY. BUT HAIG HAD FELT THAT TO CANCEL THE TRIP AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD RISK UNDERCUTTING HIS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. GENERAL ALLEN HAD THEREFORE SET OFF, TAKING WITH HIM IN HIS AIRCRAFT MOST OF THE AIR CHIEFS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES.
- EAGLEBURGER VOLUNTEERED, IN ADDITION, THAT HAIG HAD ALSO FELT OBLIGED TO AUTHORISE A VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES BY US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE BILL BROCK, WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME AS PART OF A TOUR OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. BROCK WOULD BE DUE IN BUENOS AIRES IN A COUPLE OF DAYS' TIME.
- THOMAS DEPLORED THESE DECISIONS. VISITS BY SUCH SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE BOUND TO BE INTERPRETED IN BUENOS AIRES VERY MUCH AS QUOTE BUSINESS AS USUAL UNQUOTE. THIS SEEMED TO BE A LAMENTABLE MESSAGE TO BE SENDING THE ARGENTINIANS AT PRESENT. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT, IF HAIG HAD NOT UNDERTAKEN HIS PRESENT QUOTE SHUTTLE UNQUOTE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO QUESTION OF ALLOWING SUCH VISITS TO TAKE PLACE. BUT IN THE PRESENT VERY DELICATE SITUATION, HAIG HAD FELT IT WAS VITAL TO AVOID JEOPARDISING THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BY PUBLICLY TAKING ACTION THAT THE ARGENTINIANS WOULD REGARD AS HOSTILE.

HENDERSON

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