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TELEGRAM NO 183 OF 13 APRIL

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SAVING ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG
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MY TELS NOS 181 AND 182: FALKLAND ISLANDS: JAPANESE POSITION

1. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT JAPANESE POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF MR SUZUKI'S REPLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER STATEMENTS MADE HERE SO FAR.
2. IN ESSENCE THE JAPANESE ARE WILLING THE END (THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE) WITHOUT BEING PREPARED TO PLAY THEIR PART IN PROVIDING THE MEANS (STRONG DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA TO WITHDRAW, INCLUDING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS).
3. THE FACTOR PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LUKEWARM SUPPORT ON THE PART OF JAPAN IS THE ABSENCE OF ANY UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION BY THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION. THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE FRIEND OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND BY THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN NO UNILATERAL ACTION TO SUPPORT OUR DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE SINCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY ARE PINNING MORE FAITH ON HAIG'S MEDIATORY ROLE THAN ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SECURE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES.
4. IN TAKING THIS LINE THE JAPANESE ARE ADOPTING THEIR USUAL POSITION OF STAYING WELL BACK NEAR THE REAR OF THE PACK ON ANY CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUE WHICH INVOLVES EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES AMONG OTHERS. ON THIS OCCASION, BY CONTRACT WITH AFGHANISTAN AND POLAND, THE LOW PROFILE OPTION IS OFFERED BY THE AMERICANS.
5. THERE ARE OTHER JAPANESE CONSIDERATIONS STILL WORKING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AT THIS STAGE.
 - (A) FEW JAPANESE HAD ^EHARD OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO. GEOGRAPHICALLY THEY ARE ABOUT AS REMOTE FROM JAPAN AS ANY PART OF THE WORLD.
 - (B) THE DOMESTIC LOBBIES AGAINST UPSETTING RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA ARE NOT ALL THAT STRONG BUT IN THE LIGHT OF AMERICAN

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/ ATTITUDES

ATTITUDES ARE PROBABLY SUFFICIENT TO GIVE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERABLE PAUSE FOR THOUGHT. THERE ARE 30,000 PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA EITHER OF JAPANESE NATIONALITY OR OF JAPANESE ORIGIN. TOTAL JAPANESE TRADE WITH ARGENTINA BOTH WAYS AMOUNTS TO ABOUT US DOLLAR 1 BILLION. BILATERAL ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS ARGENTINA SO FAR IS SEEN IN LARGE PART AS AN EXAMPLE OF EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY OR OLD COMMONWEALTH SENTIMENT RATHER THAN AS A MORE BROADLY BASED DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE.

(C) THE JAPANESE CONSIDER THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR VOTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE ACTION WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN WITH THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HERE CALLING FOR THE EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE TROOPS, AND THE NOT UNSYMPATHETIC RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY MR SUZUKI (DESPITE ITS ABSENCE OF PRACTICAL MEASURES), THEIR CREDENTIALS ARE RESPECTABLE.

6. IF WE WISH TO MOVE THE JAPANESE FURTHER I THINK THAT THIS COULD BEST BE DONE EITHER THROUGH WASHINGTON, WHICH WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE ROUTE, OR BY MEANS OF ENSURING THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OTHER THIRD PARTIES, PARTICULARLY SAY FROM THE ASEAN GROUP AMONG OTHERS, CAME OUT IN RESOUNDING SUPPORT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE AND/OR TOOK PRACTICAL ECONOMIC STEPS AGAINST ARGENTINA.

7. THE DANGER IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE THAT PRESSURE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AT ALMOST ANY PRICE WILL START TO BUILD UP TO AN EXTENT WHERE DEMANDS FOR ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL GRADUALLY SLIP INTO THE BACKGROUND. WE SHALL BE TAKING STEPS TO TRY TO AVOID THIS DEVELOPMENT. I RECOGNISE THE PRESSURES OF WORK IN LONDON BUT HOPE THAT IN THIS CONTEXT WE CAN BE KEPT GENERALLY IN THE PICTURE ABOUT THE HAIG MISSION AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT.

PLEASE SEE MIFT.

FCO PSE PASS SAVINGS ADDRESSEES

CORTAZZI

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