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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NO 188 OF 15 APRIL

RFI IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON ROUTINE CANBERRA OTTAWA UKMIS NEW YORK

UKREP BRUSSELS BONN AND PARIS



YOUR TELNO 709: FALKLANDS: JAPANESE POSITION

1. WE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE AMERICANS HERE YESTERDAY IN THE SENSE OF YOUR PARAGRAPH 2 MAKING IT CLEAR THAT IN OUR VIEW THE JAPANESE WERE NOW HIDING BEHIND AMERICAN SKIRTS.
2. CLARK (MINISTER AT THE US EMBASSY) SAID THAT HE COULD SEE LOGIC OF OUR CASE FOR AMERICAN ACTION HERE BUT LOCALLY THEIR HANDS WERE TIED UNLESS AND UNTIL NEW INSTRUCTIONS CAME FROM WASHINGTON. THE INTEREST OF US MISSIONS ABROAD WAS TO DO NOTHING TO UNDERMINE THE HAIG MISSION, WHICH INCLUDED PRESERVING US CREDIBILITY WITH ARGENTINA. THIS CREDIBILITY WOULD BE DAMAGED IF IT WERE LEARNED IN BUENOS AIRES THAT THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN URGING THE JAPANESE TO TAKE ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST ARGENTINA. UNDER SOME PRESSURE CLARK AGREED NEVERTHELESS TO REPORT OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO WASHINGTON AND SEEK FRESH INSTRUCTIONS.
3. WHILE THE AMERICANS MAY NOT FIND IT EASY TO ADOPT A LINE WITH THE JAPANESE WHICH IS TANTAMOUNT TO "DON'T DO AS I DO BUT DO AS I SAY" IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PASS THE WORD THAT A STATEMENT AND SOME ACTION BY JAPAN COULD ASSIST THE HAIG MISSION RATHER THAN HINDER IT. THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF A SUPER POWER ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPROPRIATE TO A COUNTRY SUCH AS JAPAN. THIS LATTER POINT SHOULD ALSO HELP TO DISCOURAGE ANY IDEAS OF JAPAN ACTING IN A MEDIATORY ROLE, A LINE OF THOUGHT WHICH SO FAR SEEMS TO BE CONFINED TO INDIVIDUAL JAPANESE POLITICIANS AND WHICH WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE.

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