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FM FCO 151631Z APR 82

TO PRIORITY MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 210 OF 15 APRIL

INFO ROUTINE BONN: PARIS: UKDEL NATO: WASHINGTON: UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO SAVING BUDAPEST: BUCHAREST: BELGRADE: SOFIA: PRAGUE: WARSAW
FALKLAND ISLANDS: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MR HURD

1. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR CALLED, AT HIS REQUEST, ON MR HURD TODAY TO GIVE THE SOVIET ACCOUNT OF THE LAST ROUND OF INF NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA (RECORD BY BAG).
2. AT THE END OF THE MEETING MR HURD DREW POPOV'S ATTENTION TO THE REMARKABLE DEGREE OF UNITY IN THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 14 APRIL ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS. HE EMPHASISED THAT WE WISHED TO REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCR 502. MR HURD SAID WE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING CAREFULLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE. WE FOUND IT DISTURBING. EVENTS WERE BEING PRESENTED AS IF THE UK WERE BEHAVING AS A COLONIAL POWER. BUT, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAD SEEN NO REFERENCES IN THE SOVIET PRESS TO THE FACT THAT SCR 502 WAS MANDATORY AND REQUIRED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE TROOPS. NO MENTION HAD BEEN OF THE FACT THAT IN DECOLONISATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION LAY AT THE HEART OF THE UN CHARTER. WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WAS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORDER.
3. POPOV MAINTAINED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION WAS 'PRINCIPLED' AND NOT OPPORTUNIST. IT HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE THE UN RESOLUTION OF 1963 HAD INCLUDED THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS ONE OF THE TERRITORIES TO BE DECOLONISED. THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED THIS RESOLUTION. AS FAR AS THE PRESENT DISPUTE WAS CONCERNED HE HOPED THAT BOTH THE UK AND ARGENTINA WOULD ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER AND THAT THE DISPUTE COULD BE RESOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. IN HIS SPEECH ON 5 APRIL IN BELGRADE MR GROMYKO HAD SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS AGAINST ADDING TO EXISTING HOTBEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION. POPOV ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY SINCERELY HOPED A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED. MR HURD POINTED

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OUT THAT THE SOVIET LINE APPEARED TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT FORCE HAD IN FACT ALREADY BEEN USED. THE SITUATION WAS DANGEROUS. WE HOPED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE HELPFUL OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 502.

4. MIFT CONTAINS LINE TAKEN BY NEWS DEPARTMENT ON POPOV'S CALL.

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