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FROM U K MISSION NEW YORK 170117Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 489 OF 16 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, MODUK SITCEN.

MY TELNO 476; FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ROCA, HAS ADDRESSED A FURTHER LETTER TODAY (16 APRIL) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, REQUESTING ITS CIRCULATION AS A COUNCIL DOCUMENT (FULL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS ON 17 APRIL BY FACSIMILE TO EMERGENCY UNIT).

THE MAIN THEMES ARE:

- (A) ARGENTINA'S WISH TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO HER SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IN THE FALKLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES. ARGENTINE COOPERATION WITH THE HAIG INITIATIVE IS EVIDENCE OF THEIR WILL TO NEGOTIATE:
- (B) THE INCOHERENT BEHAVIOUR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM: APPEALING TO THE UN MACHINERY ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY YET THREATENING THE USE OF FORCE, SENDING THE FLEET, ENFORCING A BLOCKADE, ETC.
- (C) HARKING BACK TO THE BRITISH THREAT OF FORCE AGAINST THE SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS IN SOUTH GEORGIA. THE ARRIVAL OF BRITISH MARINES IN SOUTH GEORGIA HAD FORCED ARGENTINA TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO DEFEND HER OWN UNARMED CITIZENS THERE:
- (D) THE FALSENESS OF THE BRITISH CLAIM TO BE ACTING IN DEFENCE OF THE ISLANDERS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS IS A POLITICAL EXCUSE FOR CONTINUING THE COLONIAL SITUATION IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS:
- (E) ARGENTINE DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE ISLANDERS AND PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS, AS SHE HAS DONE THROUGHOUT HER HISTORY FOR MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS OF DIVERSE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS. IN THAT CONNECTION THE LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS OF BRITISH EXTRACTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER LAUDING THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS SUCCESS IN PRESERVING THEIR TRADITIONAL BRITISH WAY OF LIFE. IN CONTRAST THE UK HAS KEPT THE ISLANDERS AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS LIVING IN A STATE OF VIRTUAL ISOLATION.

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2. THE LETTER CONCLUDES BY SAYING THE UNITED KINGDOM CANNOT JUSTIFY ITS PRESENT ACTIONS AS LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENCE SINCE THERE IS NO IMMINENT AND SERIOUS DANGER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM ITSELF. ARGENTINA HAS ACCEPTED SCR 502 WITH RESPECT TO THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND HAS THREATENED NO HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN.
3. I RECOMMEND THAT WE REPLY TO THIS LETTER EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE WILL PREPARE THIS ON 19 APRIL AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE BY 191400Z THE BACKGROUND TO PARAGRAPH 4 WHICH MENTIONS UK NOTIFICATION TO THE ICAO OF THE EMERGENCY AIR SPACE ZONE (CORRESPONDING TO THE MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE).

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