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TELEGRAM NO 1360 OF 20 APRIL

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FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

YOUR TEL NO 771:FALKLANDS

1. I DO NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY TROUBLE WITH US PRESS, PUBLIC OR CONGRESSIONAL OPINION AND THIS WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE PRESIDENT AND HAIG.
2. NOR DO I BELIEVE THAT THEY THEMSELVES WOULD BE AGAINST, TO SUBJECT TO TWO QUALIFICATIONS. FIRST, HAIG MIGHT FEEL IT NECESSARY TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT THE FURTHER RESORT TO FORCE WHILE TALKS ARE PROCEEDING. THE OAS ARE MEETING HERE TODAY AND WILL SURELY HOLD FURTHER MEETINGS PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS MILITARY ACTION. SECONDLY, I AM SURE HAIG WOULD RESENT IT BITTERLY AND EVEN FEEL BETRAYED IF HE WERE NOT GIVEN ADVANCE WARNING OF THE OPERATION. HE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO TELL THE PRESIDENT BUT I BELIEVE WE COULD TRUST THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THIS RESPECT. IT IS TRUE THIS WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO TRY TO DISSUADE US, BUT I AM SUGGESTING THEY SHOULD BE INFORMED, NOT CONSULTED, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OUR BEING OPEN TO DISSUASION.
3. IF YOU AGREE IN PRINCIPLE YOU WILL WISH TO DECIDE WHEN THE NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN. BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE AT THE VERY LAST MINUTE.

HENDERSON

PERMUN

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