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ZZ WASHINGTON

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FM FCO 211500Z APRIL 82

TO FLASH WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 788 OF 21 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. MY TWO IFT'S CONTAIN A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO HAIG AND A LIST OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BUENOS AIRES DRAFT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND I CONSIDER ESSENTIAL.

2. IN CONVEYING THESE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT I SHOULD LIKE YOU ALSO TO PUT ACROSS THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN WHATEVER WAY YOU THINK BEST:

A. UNLESS HAIG THINKS OTHERWISE, I SUGGEST WE BEGIN OUR TALKS BY SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE WORK WE HAVE TO DO. I NEED TO KNOW MORE FROM HAIG ABOUT THE MOOD AND CONDITIONS IN BUENOS AIRES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RELYING ON ANY AGREEMENT TO WHICH THE ARGENTINIANS MAY PUT THEIR NAMES. I SHOULD BE GLAD ALSO TO TALK ABOUT THE GENERAL LATIN AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND SOVIET ANGLES. THIS IS THE BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH THE TEXT AND OUR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (WHICH ARE HASTILY PREPARED AND NOT NECESSARILY OUR FINAL WORD)

COULD THEN BE CONSIDERED. I DO NOT WANT TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WITH HAIG PLOUGHING THROUGH DRAFTS

B. AS HAIG KNOWS FROM MY MESSAGE TO HIM OF 15 APRIL (MY TELNO 730) A POINT OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE FOR BRITAIN IS THAT OF THE EVENTUAL AMERICAN GUARANTEE OF THE SECURITY OF THE ISLANDS FROM ANY FUTURE ARGENTINE AGGRESSION. HAIG WILL KNOW HOW LITTLE FAITH ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN HAVE IN ARGENTINE GOOD INTENTIONS. I SHALL WANT TO TALK TO HAIG ABOUT HOW BEST TO ARRANGE THIS AND TO

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RELATED IT TO THE OTHER PARTS OF ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION.

C. THE AMERICANS WILL APPRECIATE THAT AS THE BRITISH MILITARY CAPABILITY IN THE AREA DEVELOPS, IT WILL BECOME ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO KEEP ARGENTINA IN THE DARK ABOUT HOW THIS MIGHT BE USED. I HAVE ENOUGH RESPECT FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR GUESSES WILL SOMETIMES BE CLOSE TO THE MARK. I KNOW TOO THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENT TRADITION IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT DISCUSSING THESE MATTERS IN PUBLIC. BUT HAIG HIMSELF HAS UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING OUR MILITARY PRESSURE, AND HE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE ITS EFFECTIVENESS WEAKENED BY UNNECESSARY PUBLICITY. THERE IS PRESSURE ON US FROM THE PRESS HERE TOO, BUT WE ARE HOLDING THE LINE THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO SPECULATE IN PUBLIC ABOUT THESE MATTERS.

3. I HAVE TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY ON THE REST OF THE PROGRAMME (YOUR TELNO 1370). I ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO OUTSIDE CALLS OF THE SORT YOU HAVE SUGGESTED AND TO THE PRESS SIDE OF THE VISIT.

PYM

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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