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FM FCO 212255Z APR 82
TO FLASH WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 791 OF 21 APRIL

YOUR TELNOS 1381 AND 1376: FALKLANDS

1. YOU SPOKE VERY WELL AND I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HAVING AVERTED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A VERY DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT. I FIND IT AMAZING THAT IT SHOULD HAVE CROSSED THE AMERICANS' MIND THAT THEY OUGHT TO TELL THE ARGENTINIANS ABOUT OUR IMPENDING MOVE.
2. YOU HAVE DISCRETION TO TELL HAIG THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DECISION OF WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY TOLD HIM IS IRREVERSIBLE, THE TIMING OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION DEPENDS IN PART ON FACTORS, SUCH AS LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS, OVER WHICH THERE IS NO CONTROL.
3. AS TO OUR PUBLIC POSITION, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT THIS PRESENTS US WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR SINCE THE ARGENTINE INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS THAT WE RESERVE OUR RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION IN SELF-DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER. WE HAVE MADE IT PLAIN THROUGHOUT THAT OUR STRATEGY IS TO APPLY MILITARY AS WELL AS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE.
4. BEYOND THIS, WHAT WE SAY IN PUBLIC WILL DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME. WE SHALL NOT HESITATE TO SAY THAT IN OUR VIEW THE ONLY HOPE OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AT THE END OF THE DAY IS FOR US NOT TO FLINCH FROM THE USE OF THE NECESSARY FORCE IN ORDER TO BRING HOME TO THE ARGENTINES THE NEED FOR THEM TO WITHDRAW.
5. AS FOR THE AMERICANS, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF OUR PLANS IN ADVANCE, AND YOU SHOULD SAY THAT I HOPE THEY WILL TAKE THIS LINE AND STICK TO IT. IT IS NOT FOR US TO ADVISE THEM HOW TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED FROM THEIR OWN SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE.
6. WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE EFFECT IN THIS COUNTRY OF AMERICAN STATEMENTS CRITICISING THE USE OF FORCE ON OUR PART IS CORRECT. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT I WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RIGHT TO RESORT TO THE USE OF FORCE IN SELF-DEFENCE WOULD BE SHOWN. I UNDERSTAND AND SHARE HAIG'S WISH THAT HIS STANDING AS A NEGOTIATOR SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, AND I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE OAS AND IN LATIN AMERICA GENERALLY. NEVERTHELESS, A LESS EVEN-HANDED STANCE BY THE AMERICANS IS WHAT IS REQUIRED TO MOVE THE ARGENTINES.

TOP SECRET

7. YOU MAY ALSO TELL HAIG THAT I FULLY AGREE WITH THE VIEWS WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED AS TO THE FUTILITY OF DISCUSSION WITH COSTA MENDEZ. IF THERE WERE A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE ARGENTINE POSITION, HE WOULD NO DOUBT TELL THE AMERICANS FIRST. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF MY ENGAGING IN PROXIMITY TALKS WITH COSTA MENDEZ.

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- 2 -

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