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21 APR 1982

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 220020Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 516 OF 21 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON.



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YOUR TELNO 282: FALKLAND ISLANDS: YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON

137 1. I SEE NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTY IN THE PROPOSAL IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF YOUR TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. THE FORCE WOULD BE AN OBSERVER FORCE, ON THE LINES OF UNTSO, AND THUS EASIER TO GET THROUGH THE COUNCIL THAN A PEACEKEEPING FORCE SUCH AS UNIFIL. (THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS ALREADY ENVISAGED SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IN THE PAPER TRANSMITTED IN MY TELNO 501). THE RUSSIANS WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO SCORE POINTS OFF THE AMERICANS AND OURSELVES BY GRIZZLING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE WHOLE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED OUTSIDE THE UN FRAMEWORK. THEY MIGHT MAKE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. BUT THE REST OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE ANY UN INVOLVEMENT, AND THE RUSSIANS WOULD THEREFORE BE UNLIKELY TO VETO THE RESOLUTION SETTING UP THE FORCE, SINCE THERE WOULD BE NOBODY TO PLEASE BY DOING SO. WITH THE UN SECRETARIAT'S LONG EXPERIENCE, THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN ACTUALLY GETTING A FORCE TO THE AREA QUICKLY.

2. AS REGARDS THE MECHANICS, ROCA (ARGENTINA) AND I WOULD HAVE TO ACT IN CONCERT. I WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS.

3. THE MAIN PROBLEM WOULD BE THE TIMING OF OUR APPROACH TO THE COUNCIL. IT WOULD BE A FATAL MISTAKE TO DO SO BEFORE WE AND THE ARGENTINES HAD SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. TO GO TO THE COUNCIL IN ADVANCE OF SIGNATURE WOULD OPEN THE WAY TO ENDLESS TROUBLE MAKING, BOTH WELL INTENTIONED AND MALEVOLENT. HOWEVER, THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE BOUND TO BECOME PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY AFTER

3. THE MAIN PROBLEM WOULD BE THE TIMING OF OUR APPROACH TO THE COUNCIL. IT WOULD BE A FATAL MISTAKE TO DO SO BEFORE WE AND THE ARGENTINES HAD SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. TO GO TO THE COUNCIL IN ADVANCE OF SIGNATURE WOULD OPEN THE WAY TO ENDLESS TROUBLE MAKING, BOTH WELL INTENTIONED AND MALEVOLENT. HOWEVER, THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE BOUND TO BECOME PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNATURE. THERE WOULD BE GREAT DISSATISFACTION IN THE COUNCIL IF WE AND THE ARGENTINES DELAYED A FORMAL APPROACH UNTIL EG THE COMPLETION OF WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES OR EVEN THE MID-POINT OF WITHDRAWAL. I BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR ROCA AND MYSELF TO BE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, I.E. THE SAME DAY.

PARSONS

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