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CWQ222 25/19 01 11501359

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 251755Z APR 82

FROM COMM GEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUK  
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SIC A3A/A2N/19F

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DESKEY 26 0900Z

FM WASHINGTON 251720Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1445 OF 25 APRIL 1982

INFO TEL AVIV.

FALKLANDS: ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA.

1. MINISTER DREW EAGLEBURGER'S ATTENTION YESTER DAY TO FURTHER REPORTS WE HAD HAD FROM SECRET SOURCES ABOUT ISRAELI SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THE LATEST AS YET UNEVALUATED REPORT WAS THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE USING BOEING 707S TO PROVIDE AN AIRBRIDGE FOR THE SUPPLY OF AIR TO AIR MISSILES TO ARGENTINA. IF THIS REPORT WAS TRUE, IT IMPLIED A MAJOR POLITICAL DECISION BY THE ISRAELIS, WHICH QUITE A PART FROM THE SURPRISING AND UNWELCOME SUPPORT IT GAVE TO ARGENTINIAN AGGRESSION, WOULD DO VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE TO ISRAEL'S STANDING IN THE UK. THOMAS WONDERED WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SEE AN INTEREST IN SPEAKING SHARPLY TO THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THIS, IF THEY HAD ANY CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE.

2. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD THIS LATEST REPORT BUT THAT ON THE BASIS OF EARLIER REPORTS, HE HAD ALREADY RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH HAIG. THEY HAD AGREED THAT EAGLEBURGER SHOULD CALL IN THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TODAY AND URGE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO STOP THIS TRAFFIC. HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO HIM ONCE IN RATHER GUARDED TERMS ON THE SUBJECT. THIS TIME HE WOULD BE BRUTALLY FRANK. APART FROM ANYTHING ELSE, IT WAS INCOMPROMISING THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE GIVING THIS KIND OF HELP, PRESUMABLY FOR COMMERCIAL GAIN, TO A COUNTRY AND A REGIME WHICH HAD MORE THAN ANY OTHER BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SHELTERING FORMER NAZIS.

3. THE MOST EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS TO STOP THIS ACTIVITY MIGHT BE TO PUBLICISE WHAT THEY ARE DOING, IF THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT LETTING THE U.K. BE SEEN AS THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION.

HENDERSON  
BT

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