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FM WASHINGTON 032350Z
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 2021 OF 3 JUNE 1982,
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK (DS11 AND DS5).

64 YOUR TELNO 1116: FALKLANDS: US ASSISTANCE

STATE DEPARTMENT ARE GENERALLY CONTENT WITH THE LINE ON THE FITTING OF VULCAN PHALANX TO ILLUSTRIOUS PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. THEY SUGGEST HOWEVER, THAT THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF OUR PROPOSED LINE BE USED ONLY IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS I.E. WE WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY USE THE WHOLE OF PARA 3 IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BUT ONLY THAT PART OF IT WHICH WAS STRICTLY NECESSARY. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO THE REFERENCE TO ACQUISITION OF THE SYSTEM HAVING BEEN SPEEDED UP, WHICH THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE VOLUNTEERED IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL ENQUIRIES.

2. STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTED THAT THE SENTENCE "IT IS NOT DIRECT US ASSISTANCE IN THE FALKLANDS CONTEXT" MIGHT BE DELETED. ALTHOUGH STRICTLY TRUE, THEY THOUGHT IT COULD BE OPEN TO CHALLENGE.

THOMAS

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