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OO WASHINGTON

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FM FCO 021945Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 895 OF 2 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE ROME  
*And to UKMIS NY.*

ALQ 050/598/1  
~~4 MAY 1982~~

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

MIPT: FALKLANDS: MESSAGE FROM ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED REPLY TO COLOMBO'S REPLY.

BEGINS

DEAR EMILIO

1. YOUR WARM AND THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE REACHED ME IN LONDON SHORTLY BEFORE I LEFT FOR TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.
2. I THINK YOU KNOW HOW VERY GREATLY WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE SUPPORT WHICH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND YOU PERSONALLY HAVE GIVEN TO MY COUNTRY DURING THE LAST MONTH. THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THIS HAS CAUSED YOU ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD BY US, AS ARE THE RISKS TO WHICH YOU DRAW ATTENTION AT THE END OF YOUR MESSAGE. I AGREE THAT THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE THE BENEFACITOR OF THE CURRENT CRISIS, AND WE MUST BEAR THIS IN MIND MOST CAREFULLY AS WE SEEK THE WAY FORWARD.
3. FROM MY SIDE I CAN ONLY UNDERLINE THE MESSAGE WHICH I HAVE SOUGHT TO CONVEY LAST WEEK IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND TODAY IN MY TALKS WITH AL HAIG. THE ARGENTINE INVASION WAS A WICKED AND UNLAWFUL ACT WHICH MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED. IT CAN BE REVERSED PROVIDED THAT THE PRESSURE - DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY - ALREADY DEPLOYED IS MAINTAINED AND INCREASED. THE ADDITION OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN TO THE RANKS OF THOSE BRINGING THIS PRESSURE TO BEAR MAKES ME MORE SURE THAN EVER THAT THIS COURSE IS NOT ONLY RIGHT BUT CERTAIN TO PREVAIL. AS TO THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME, WE ARE FLEXIBLE ON ALL POINTS EXCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT NOTHING CAN BE IMPOSED ON THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AGAINST THEIR STATED WILL. IT FOLLOWS THAT THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY CANNOT BE PRE-

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DETERMINED AS THE ARGENTINES ARE INSISTING.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS NOW BEEN SOME SHOOTING, I DO NOT DESPAIR OF A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION. IN MY TALKS HERE WITH AL HAIG I HAVE BEEN EXPLORING BOTH POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ALSO POSSIBLE MECHANISMS FOR BRINGING THESE ABOUT. I SHALL BE FOLLOWING UP THESE POINTS WHEN I SEE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN. I SHALL BE BACK IN LONDON ON MONDAY EVENING, AND EXPECT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND OUR OTHER COLLEAGUES SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

5. MEANWHILE I SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, WHERE I KNOW THAT YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH I HAVE EXPRESSED IN THIS MESSAGE AND THE INFLUENCE WHICH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF ITALY ARE IN A POSITION TO EXERT IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS

YOURS EVER

FRANCIS

ENDS

PYM

FCO

WED

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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