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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 894 OF 2 MAY,
AND TO UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO IMMEDIATE ROME.

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY.

FALKLANDS: MESSAGE FROM ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF COLOMBO'S MESSAGE.
BEGINS

DEAR FRANCIS,

I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE DELICATE MOMENT THAT GREAT BRITAIN IS UNDERGOING DUE TO THE GRAVE OFFENCE INFLICTED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL SITUATION ARISEN THEREOF, AND WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU A FEW CONSIDERATIONS WHICH SUM-UP THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL VIEW ON THIS COMPLEX SITUATION.

SINCE THE BEGINNING WE HAVE DEEMD THAT IT WAS IN THE INTREST NOT ONLY OF GREAT BRITAIN BUT ALSO OF ALL THE COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL EQUILIBRIUM NOT TO LET THE ARGENTINE INVASION GO WITHOUT CNDEMnation, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION. WE HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED THE RECOURSE TO NEGOTIATIONS TO OVERCOME THE ANGLO-ARGENTINE DISPUTE THUS MOVING TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF THE CONTROVERSY. FOR THESE REASONS WE HAVE SUPPORTED AND STILL SUPPORT THE ADMIRABLE COMMITMENT OF OUR COMMON FRIEND AL HAIG.

AS YOU KNOW, OUR RESPONSE TO THE BRITISH CALL FOR SOLIDARITY HAS BEEN FULL AND IMMEDIATE. WE BELIEVE THAT SOLIDARITY AMONG COMMUNITY PARTNERS IS AN ELEMENT OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE PATH TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION. FOR THIS REASON WE HAVE NOT HESITATED TO EMBARGO ALL EXPORTS OF ARMS AND OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN FAVOURABLE ALSO WITH REGARDS TO ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA.

AS FOR THE LATTER, NEVERTHELESS, WE FEEL THAT A PSYCHOLOGICAL

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SITUATION, WHICH COULD BECOME POLITICAL AND OF WHICH ALL OUR GOVERNMENTS MUST BE AWARE, IS COMING INTO BEING IN ARGENTINA. TO A PUBLIC OPINION FRUSTRATED BY YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP AND ISOLATION THE EUROPEAN GESTURE HAS APPEARED, BEYOND ITS MATERIAL CONSEQUENCES, AS A GRAVE AND UNEXPECTED PROVOCATION. THE ARGENTINIANS HAVE REACTED BY CLINGING TO THE MILITARY RETHORIC, THOUGH THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THEM DO NOT LOVE THE MILITARY REGIME.

BUT THIS IS A TEMPORARY PHASE: WHICHEVER THE COURSE OF THE EVENTS, THIS RECONCILEMENT BETWEEN PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MILITARY DOES NOT SEEM TO BE DESTINED TO LAST. ON THE CONTRARY WHICH COULD LAST IS A RESENTMENT AGAINST EUROPE. A RESENTMENT WHICH COULD RESULT IN A SEARCH FOR ROADS AND DIRECTIONS NOT UNKNOWN TO ARGENTINA WHO MORE THAN ONCE IN THE PAST APPEARED TO BE NEAR A MARXIST TURN IN INTERNAL POLITICS AND THE CHOICE OF THE SOVIET UNION AS A PRIVILIGED INTERLOCUTOR IN FOREIGN RELATIONS.

I HAVE THOUGHT OF EXPRESSING THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO YOU SINCE YOU ASKED TO KNWW OUR UP-TO-DATE EVALUATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT IN ARGENTINA. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF SANCTIONS WE MUST KEEP THESE ASPECTS IN MIND.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL REGARDS.

EMILIO COLOMBO

ENDS

PYM

FCO

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