

AKG 050/6991 (213)

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GROUPS 225
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 FROM DUBLIN 031530Z MAY 1982.
 TO IMMEDIATE F C O
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 121 OF 3 MAY .

AND TO INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK
 AND TO INFO PRIORITY PARIS, BONN, COPENHAGEN, BRUSSELS, ATHENS,
 LUXEMBOURG, ROME, THE HAGUE AND UKREP BRUSSELS.

MY TELNO 120: FALKLANDS: IRISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT.

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1. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN MY TUR REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S DISLIKE OF OUR USE OF FORCE AND SUGGESTS THAT THEY NOW TAKE A COOLER VIEW OF OUR CASE THAN WHEN THE ARGENTINE FIRST INVADED. DONLON TOLD ME THAT THE CABINET HAD CONSIDERED THE FALKLANDS QUESTION AT SOME LENGTH YESTERDAY. THE REFERENCE IN THE STATEMENT TO 'AN ADEQUATE FRAMEWORK' AND THE 'POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY THE UNITED NATIONS' MEANT IN FACT RESOLUTION NO. 502 WHICH SOMEHOW GOT DROPPED FROM THE DRAFTING. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE IRISH INDEPENDENT'S POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED AND TODAY'S INDEPENDENT HAS AN ARTICLE ON THE FRONT PAGE WHICH ACCURATELY REFLECTS IRISH GOVERNMENT THINKING. THIS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT IRELAND WILL NOT SUPPORT A CONTINUANCE OF THE EC TRADE EMBARGO BEYOND 17 MAY.

2. I THINK THERE ARE 3 STRANDS BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING. FIRST, UNEASE THAT IRELAND'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IS BEING UNDERMINED BY HER SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN. SECOND, CONCERN THAT THIS IS CAUSING HER TO LOSE GROUND IN THE THIRD WORLD AND, THIRD, PRESSURE FROM THE GREEN FRINGES OF THE FIANNA FAIL PARTY NOT TO BE SEEN TO BE HELPING THE 'ANCIENT ENEMY' ESPECIALLY IN HER 'COLONIAL' AMBITIONS.

3. I HOPE THIS IS SUFFICIENT ANSWER TO YOUR TELNO 96. IF THE SITUATION CHANGES BETWEEN NOW AND START OF PLAY ON 6 MAY, WE WILL REPORT FURTHER.

FIGG.

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
 FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES TO

PS/CHANCELLOR }
 SIR K COUZENS }
 MR LITTLER } TREASURY
 MR HAWTIN }
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 MR ILETT }

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
 MISS DICKSON (SIP DIVN) D/ENERGY
 MR A WILLIAMS DSW 60

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