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DESKBY 050730Z

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 050010Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 650 OF 4 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

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THIS COPY FOR

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cc: negotiation

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ENCL NO

FOR NEWS DEPT

FALKLANDS/UNITED NATIONS

1. AT AN ON THE RECORD LUNCH WITH UN CORRESPONDENTS ON 4 MAY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HE WAS EXPECTING A REPLY BY 5 MAY TO THE IDEAS WHICH HE HAD PUT TO MR PYM AND TO THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE WEEKEND. HE USED THE TERM "DEADLINE". THIS HAS LED TO A FRESH ROUND OF ENQUIRIES BY CORRESPONDENTS TO US ABOUT UN "PROPOSALS" OR A UN "PLAN".

2. CORRESPONDENTS HAVE ALSO ENQUIRED ABOUT MY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 4 MAY, AND OUR REACTION TO THE IRISH REQUEST FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

3. IN REPLY, WE HAVE EMPHASISED THAT THERE ARE NO FORMAL UN PROPOSALS OR UN PLAN. NOR IS THERE A FORMAL "DEADLINE". WE HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING LINE ON THE RECORD:

(A) SIR ANTHONY PARSONS CALLED ON AMBASSADOR LING QING IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WAS FULLY UP TO DATE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS AT THE OUTSET OF ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL HAD SAID THAT HE WAS AVAILABLE TO MEET ANY SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WITH HIM THIS AFTERNOON.

(B) (IF ASKED WHETHER THE UK WAS TRYING TO BLOCK DISCUSSION OF THE FALKLANDS IN THE COUNCIL): WE ARE NOT TRYING TO BLOCK A MEETING. BUT, AS SIR ANTHONY PARSONS TOLD THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, WE CONSIDER THAT THE TIMING OF ANY MEETING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MOST CAREFULLY, AND THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT MEET PREMATURELY. THE SECRETARY GENERAL MENTIONED TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS WHICH MR PYM HAS SAID HE WILL THINK ABOUT. MR PYM HAS ALSO SAID THAT WE ARE WORKING ACTIVELY ON VARIOUS IDEAS, INCLUDING THOSE PUT FORWARD BY THE PRESIDENT OF PERU.

(C) (IF ASKED WHETHER THE UK WILL RESPOND BEFORE THE DEADLINE?) THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS NATURALLY KEEN TO HAVE AN EARLY REACTION TO HIS IDEAS, AND IN THIS CONNECTION EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE THIS TO HIM BY 5 MAY. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE APPRECIATE THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION.

4. SOME CORRESPONDENTS NOW HAVE A FAIRLY DETAILED IMPRESSION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S IDEAS AND MAY SOON DISCOVER THAT THESE WERE EXPRESSED IN WRITING. WHEN THIS BECOMES KNOWN, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE:

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(A) SOME WRITTEN NOTES WERE MADE TO ILLUSTRATE THE SORT OF IDEAS WHICH THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS FLOATING:

(B) THESE DID NOT CONSTITUTE A FORMAL UN PLAN OR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS:

(C) IT REMAINS THE CASE THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS NOT SUBMITTED FORMAL PROPOSALS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

5. WE HAVE AGREED THIS LINE, AD REFERENDUM TO YOU, WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPOKESMAN. WE HAVE BRIEFED HIM ON THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 4 MAY. BOTH HE AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL IN THEIR PUBLIC REFERENCES TO THE NATURE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S IDEAS.

PARSONS

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