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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 653 OF 4 MAY 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON.

MIPT: FALKLAND ISLANDS: SECURITY COUNCIL.

1. NOW THAT THE IRISH HAVE REACTIVATED THE SECURITY COUNCIL (I DO NOT THINK, INCIDENTALLY, THAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE DONE SO IF THEY HAD NOT), MY OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO DELAY AS LONG AS POSSIBLE A FORMAL AND PUBLIC MEETING. I THINK THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THE COUNCIL IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, UNLESS THERE IS ANOTHER MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENT. THE PRECEDENT OF THE US HOSTAGES AND THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR IS A VALID ONE AND THERE IS A GENERAL DESIRE NOT TO CUT ACROSS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EFFORTS. I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THESE LINES THIS AFTERNOON, WITH SEEMINGLY GOOD RESULTS.

2. MY INSISTENCE ON THE LATTER POINT - NOT CUTTING ACROSS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EFFORTS - WILL OF COURSE BE ONLY A PRETEXT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S IDEAS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT: AND GIVEN THE INVOLVEMENT OF RAFAE AHMED, IT IS PROBABLY DESIRABLE TO KEEP THE UNITED NATIONS OUT OF THE GAME, AT THIS STAGE AT ANY RATE. MY REAL PURPOSE IN DELAYING A FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE TO GAIN TIME FOR THE HAIG/BELAUNDE PROPOSALS TO MATURE AND, OF COURSE, TO PUT OFF AS LONG AS POSSIBLE A POSSIBLE UK VETO OF A SEEMINGLY MILD RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. SUCH A VETO WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR POSITION HERE AND TRANSFER THE DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE TO THE ARGENTINES.

3. ONCE IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT FORMAL AND PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL ARE INEVITABLE, WE SHALL NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO SPIN THINGS OUT (EG BY ASSEMBLING (AND PROVOKING) THE LONGEST POSSIBLE SPEAKERS LIST) OR TO GO FOR A SHORT SHARP DEBATE IN ORDER TO GET OUR VETO OVER WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IF AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I SHALL RECOMMEND ON THIS IN THE LIGHT OF THE THEN STATE OF HOSTILITIES AND OF DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

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4. ONE CONSEQUENCE OF RELYING ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INITIATIVE AS A PRETEXT FOR DELAYING A FORMAL MEETING IS THAT WE SHALL GIVE IT ENHANCED STATUS. I THINK THAT THIS PRICE IS WORTH PAYING. PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S IDEAS ARE IN ANY CASE LIKELY TO BECOME PUBLIC SHORTLY BECAUSE WE HAVE REVEALED THEM TO OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE TEN (SEE MY TELNO 651) AND BECAUSE THE WHOLE UN PRESS CORPS IS TRYING TO SNIFF THEM OUT. BUT IF YOU ACCEPT THE TACTICS RECOMMENDED ABOVE, IT IS LIKELY TO BECOME NECESSARY FOR YOU TO BE READIER THAN YOU WERE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY TO ADMIT THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR DID PUT SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS TO YOU ON 2 MAY.

PARSONS

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