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GRS 380
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 FROM ROME 051615Z MAY 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELNO 233 OF 05 MAY 82
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 INFO SAVING ALL EC POSTS , UKDEL NATO

ALQ 50/598/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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MY TELNOS 225 AND 228-9: FALKLANDS: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS

1. COLOMBO ALSO REFERRED TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE DC CONGRESS YESTERDAY. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN MEANT TO OFFSET PICCOLI'S INTERVENTION AND ITS TONE WAS MUCH BETTER. COLOMBO CALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND FOR FULL OBSERVANCE OF SCR 502, BUT WENT ON TO ASK PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO UNDERTAKE A NEW INITIATIVE, THE FIRST STEP IN WHICH "CAN ONLY BE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES ON A CEASE-FIRE".

2. HEAD OF CHANCERY TACKLED BARBARANI (MFA) THIS MORNING ABOUT COLOMBO'S STATEMENT, WHICH BARBARANI ADMITTED HAD COME AS A SURPRISE TO BOTH HIM AND BOTTAI. WE SAID THAT ITALY RISKED PLAYING THE ARGENTINE GAME. A CEASE-FIRE WITHOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE TROOPS WOULD SIMPLY LEAVE US WHERE WE WERE A MONTH AGO AFTER THE ARGENTINE INVASION, AND REWARD THE AGGRESSOR. DRAWING ON UKREP BRUSSELS TELNO 1764 AND FCO TELNO 98 TO BRUSSELS, WE SAID THAT, WHILE WE COULD ENVISAGE A PHASED SOLUTION, A CEASE-FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL WERE INEXTRICABLY LINKED AND WE WOULD NEED PRECISE GUARANTEES THAT WITHDRAWAL, WHICH REMAINED OUR PREREQUISITE, DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE. OTHERWISE THE REMAINING PHASES WOULD BE COMPROMISED FROM THE START AND THE ISLANDERS WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXPRESS THIR VIEWS FREELY.

3. THE MFA TOLD US THAT THE US EMBASSY HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF COLOMBO'S REMARKS. I PROPOSE TO FOLLOW THIS UP WITH COLOMBO, AS I HAVE ALREADY DONE WITH PICCOLI (MY TELNO 229).

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4. BARBARANI ALSO TOLD HEAD OF CHANCERY IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT COLOMBO PLANNED TO INSTRUCT THE ITALIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK, PROBABLY TOMORROW, TO URGE PEREZ DE CUELLAR, AS THE ONLY PERSON LEFT IN THE FIELD, TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THE MESSAGE WOULD NOT GO INTO DETAILS AND WOULD LEAVE IT TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO ASSEMBLE A PACKAGE. WE CONFINED OURSELVES TO STRESSING THAT ANY INITIATIVE MUST BE BASED ON SCR 502 IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND WERE ASSURED THAT THE DRAFT FOR COLOMBO WOULD REFLECT THIS POINT

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES

ARCULUS

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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