

ENCL NO
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FM FCO 051630Z MAY 82

TO PRIORITY TOKYO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 170 OF 5 MAY

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON: UKMIS NEW YORK: UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS

YOUR TELNO 213: FALKLANDS: JAPANESE POSITION

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR CONCLUSION THAT THE PROSPECTS OF MOVING THE JAPANESE FURTHER IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SLIM, AND ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER APPROACH TO THE AMERICANS UNLESS THEY SET AN EXAMPLE (EG ON BANNING IMPORTS) WHICH THE JAPANESE CAN BE ASKED TO FOLLOW.

2. HOWEVER THE MEDIA HAVE NOW SIMPLIFIED THE JAPANESE POSITION INTO ONE OF SUPPORT FOR OUR CASE, INCLUDING THE TAKING OF ECONOMIC MEASURES. THE WORD QUOTE UNDULY UNQUOTE HAS NOT BEEN HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REFERENCES TO JAPAN'S NOT UNDERMINING ACTION BY EC AND OTHER COUNTRIES ON ARGENTINE IMPORTS, AND THE RESULT IS TO SHOW JAPAN AS REASONABLY FIRMLY IN OUR CAMP. WE JUDGE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW WISH TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION IN THE SENSE OF DILUTING THE APPARENT SUPPORT WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN TO US. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN LONDON AGREE WITH OUR VIEW THAT WE HAVE TOGETHER SHIFTED THINKING IN TOKYO AS FAR AS WE CAN EXPECT. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR GRATITUDE TO THE EMBASSY AND THEY ARE REPORTING TO TOKYO THAT SENIOR OPINION IN LONDON IS NOW MUCH MORE SATISFIED WITH THE JAPANESE PERFORMANCE ON THIS ISSUE THAN IT HAS BEEN.

3. GRATEFUL FOR ANY INDICATION OF WEAKENING OF THE JAPANESE POSITION OR FOR ANY FURTHER SIGN THAT THEY MAY WISH TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THE UN (UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 635).

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