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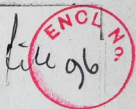
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FM BONN 051340Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 408 OF 05 MAY



FRG ATTITUDE TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS

1. IT IS REGRETABLE THAT GENSCHER'S VISIT TO LONDON TOMORROW HAS BEEN CALLED OFF. SUPPORT FOR THE UK HERE HAS TAKEN A SEVERE KNOCK IN THE LAST 48 HOURS FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF THE BELGRANO AND THE SHEFFIELD. IT APPEARS THAT OFFICIALS ARE TAKING THEIR LEAD DIRECT FROM GENSCHER AND THE CHANCELLOR, WHO ARE TAKING THE VIEW THAT THE LATEST INCIDENTS HAVE BROUGHT THE MILITARY CONFLICT TO A PITCH OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE ARGENTINE AGGRESSION WHICH OCCASIONED IT: AND THAT THE UK IS PURSUING A MILITARY SOLUTION WITH MORE VIGOUR THAN A DIPLOMATIC ONE, TO THE DETRIMENT OF GERMAN AND ALLIED INTERESTS. AFTER THEIR WEEKLY MEETING THIS MORNING, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE FEDERAL CABINET HAD EXPRESSED DISMAY AT THE ESCALATING CONFLICT AND THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE: AND REPEATED THEIR URGENT APPEAL TO US AND THE ARGENTINES FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND AN EXHAUSTIVE EXPLORATION OF ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

2. I VERY MUCH HOPE THEREFORE THAT AT VILLERS-LE-TEMPLE YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK PRIVATELY TO GENSCHER IN THE MARGINS AND TO IMPRESS ON HIM THE LONG-TERM AS WELL AS THE SHORT-TERM IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING GERMAN SOLIDARITY WITH US NOW THAT THE CRISIS HAS ENTERED ITS MOST DIFFICULT PHASE SO FAR. THE MORE COMPLETELY HE CAN BE TAKEN INTO OUR CONFIDENCE THE BETTER. MORE THAN ONE SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIAL MADE CLEAR TO ME, EVEN BEFORE THE LATEST INCIDENTS, THAT THEY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN QUOTE GIVING SUPPORT IN A VACUUM UNQUOTE. THE BEST WAY OF FILLING THE VACUUM WOULD BE TO GIVE GENSCHER THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNT OF OUR THINKING AS REGARDS BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY OPTIONS. I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES ABOUT DOING THIS BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD PAY SUBSTANTIAL DIVIDENDS.

3. THERE REMAINS THE EVEN GREATER PROBLEM OF THE CHANCELLOR. THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESENT WAVERING ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DERIVES FROM THE CHANCELLOR PERSONALLY. INDEED THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES STAFF AT THE FNOD TOLD MY DA AS MUCH IN TERMS LAST NIGHT (PLEASE PROTECT). WITH LAHNSTEIN REMOVED TO THE FINANCE MINISTRY AND GABLENTZ AWAY, WE HAVE AT PRESENT NO REALLY CLOSE CONTACTS AT THE TOP OF THE KANZLERAMT. I AM TRYING TO REACH GRONOW, THE NEW STATE SECRETARY THERE, TO REMIND HIM THAT I AM AT THE CHANCELLOR'S DISPOSAL IF HE WANTS TO TALK TO ME (AND I HAVE ASKED PFEFFER TO DO THE SAME

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WITH GENSCHER). BUT I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE PRIME MINISTER COULD FIND TIME TO TELEPHONE THE CHANCELLOR PERSONALLY TO GIVE HIM HER ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION, TO EMPHASISE THE EFFORT WE ARE PUTTING INTO THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND TO STRESS THE VALUE WE ATTACH TO CONTINUED GERMAN SUPPORT. THIS COULD ALSO BE CRUCIAL IN KEEPING THE GERMANS ON BOARD OVER SANCTIONS (MY IFT). IF IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE, SHE MIGHT ALSO SUGGEST THAT IF THE CHANCELLOR WANTS TO TALK OVER HIS CONCERNS IN GREATER DETAIL I AM AT HIS DISPOSAL AT ANY TIME.

TAYLOR

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