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cc: Negotiations

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FM FCO 051724Z
TO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK
TELEGRAM NUMBER 250 OF 5 MAY 1982
INFO FLASH WASHINGTON

YOUR TELS 621-2 AND 648 AND MY TELNO 344: SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS ON FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. I WOULD SEE MERIT IN YOUR DELIVERING A MORE SUBSTANTIVE, THOUGH STILL TEMPORISING, REPLY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S IDEAS IN THE FORM OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MYSELF TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR. A TEXT, BASED ON THE STATEMENT I MADE IN THE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON IS IN MIFT. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS TEXT AND ALSO ON THE TIMING OF ITS DELIVERY. IT HAD BEEN MY INCLINATION, DESPITE THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE QUOTE DEADLINE UNQUOTE OF 5 MAY, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WARNING YOU HAVE GIVEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT A REPLY IS UNLIKELY BEFORE 6 MAY AT THE EARLIEST AND TO HOLD IT FOR DELIVERY THEN OR LATER IN THE LIGHT OF THE INFORMAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL STARTING TONIGHT. BUT SUBJECT TO YOUR FURTHER ADVICE, I THINK IT MIGHT NOW BE BEST, IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXTENSIVE EXCHANGES IN THE HOUSE, TO DELIVER IT TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR TODAY. YOU HAVE DISCRETION TO DO SO IF YOU AGREE WITH THE TEXT AS IT STANDS.

2. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM TELEGRAMS TO WASHINGTON THAT I AM GIVING PRIORITY TO THE PERUVIAN/AMERICAN INITIATIVE. WE SHOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR THAT MIGHT ENCOURAGE ARGENTINA TO LOOK TO HIS IDEAS RATHER THAN HAIG'S AND THUS AVOID THE NEED TO TAKE DECISIONS ON THE LATTER. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN NEW YORK, WE HAVE NOT SPELLED OUT THE PRIMACY OF THE PERUVIAN/AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN THE DRAFT MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. BUT IN DELIVERING IT I WOULD WISH YOU TO EMPHASISE TO HIM THAT THAT IS HOW WE SEE MATTERS FOR THE PRESENT. I SHOULD ALSO WISH YOU TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I AM NOT IN ANY WAY TURNING DOWN HIS OWN IDEAS. I DO NOT WISH TO FORECLOSE ANY OPTIONS AND THERE

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COULD WELL BE A PLACE FOR ACTION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT A LATER STAGE. MEANWHILE WE SHALL NEED HIS HELP IN MAKING IT CLEAR TO SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING, THAT HIS OWN IDEAS ARE STILL UNDER STUDY AND THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD DO NOTHING THAT MIGHT CUT ACROSS THESE EFFORTS.

3. I ASSUME THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR IS BRIEFED, AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS, ON THE PERUVIAN IDEAS AND HOPE HE WILL UNDERSTAND OUR PREFERENCE FOR OPERATING ON THAT BASIS FOR THE TIME BEING NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH ITS UNIQUE INFLUENCE, IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION BY THAT ROUTE.

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