

ENCL No.
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FM FCO 051740Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE MADRID

TELEGRAM NUMBER 142 OF 5 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

1. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR ASKED TO CALL ON ME THIS MORNING. HE WAS SEEN BY LORD BELSTEAD.
2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SAY THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WERE PREPARED TO GIVE ANY HELP ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES IN FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. A SIMILAR OFFER HAD BEEN MADE TO ARGENTINA. THEY WERE AT OUR DISPOSAL IF THEY COULD BE OF HELP. THEY WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CRISIS FOR SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY.
3. LORD BELSTEAD THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS MESSAGE. HMG WERE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO FINDING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. IF THE ARGENTINES ABIDED BY THE TERMS OF SCR 502 IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT DETAILS. BUT SO FAR THEY SHOWED NO SIGNS OF COMPLYING. TWO INITIATIVES WERE AT PRESENT IN PROGRESS (PERU AND THE IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL). IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD BE HESITANT ABOUT OPENING A NEW CHANNEL. HE WOULD TELL ME WHAT THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR HAD SAID. IT WOULD NOT BE DISREGARDED. BUT, FOR THE PRESENT, IT WOULD BE BEST TO CONCENTRATE ON EXISTING INITIATIVES.
4. LORD BELSTEAD WENT ON TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SEEN THE CRISIS IN THE SAME LIGHT AS HMG. WE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SCR 502 AND TO RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT WE WERE OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD REMAINED SILENT ON THE LATTER POINT. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE SPANISH POSITION WAS VERY DIFFICULT. THEY WERE COMING UNDER CONFLICTING PRESSURES. THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT A DEEPENING OF THE CONFLICT WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA.

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5. SEE M.I.F.T.

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FM FCO 051740Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE MADRID

TELEGRAM NUMBER 143 OF 5 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

MIPT: FALKLANDS: CALL BY SPANISH AMBASSADOR

1. NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE IN BRIEFING THE PRESS THIS AFTERNOON.

QUOTE. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON LORD BELSTEAD AT 12.30 THIS AFTERNOON AT HIS OWN REQUEST. THE CALL LASTED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.

THE AMBASSADOR OUTLINED TO THE MINISTER OF STATE THE LINE WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ON THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. LORD BELSTEAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ARGENTINA FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SCR 502 AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT BRITAIN WAS TAKING ACTION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER.

(IF PRESSED ON THE QUESTION OF MEDIATION.)

THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WERE PREPARED TO OFFER ANY HELP ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. LORD BELSTEAD THANKED HIM FOR THIS OFFER AND POINTED OUT THAT FOR THE MOMENT OTHER INITIATIVES WERE IN PROGRESS. UNQUOTE.

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