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AUS(D Staff)DIPLOMATIC PROPOSALS: MILITARY IMPLICATIONS

Cabinet this morning considered the proposals in FCO TEL 1599 of 5th May (copy attached). There was discussion of the time required to effect a cease-fire in view of the position of the special forces and of SSNs. The message at Annex B was passed to the Secretary of State in Cabinet, based on information obtained directly by the Secretary of State from CINCFLEET.

2. The Foreign Secretary has been asked to consider further the timetable, and in particular to consider a proposal from the Secretary of State that a cease-fire should only come into effect once documents had been signed by both parties and exchanged, and thus allowing 48 hours from the signing.
3. Please keep in very close touch with the FCO and arrange for the Chiefs of Staff to be briefed as necessary.

5th May 1982

(D B OMAND)
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TO FLASH-FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1599 OF 5 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS) UKMIS NEW YORK, LIMA

ACTION

MY FIRST IPT: FALKLANDS

1. IF HAIG'S NEW POINTS CAN BE FOUND ACCEPTABLE IN LONDON, THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROCEDURE THAT HAIG HOPES CAN BE FOLLOWED:

(I) THAT LONDON SHOULD REPLY TO THIS EFFECT BY NOON WASHINGTON TIME TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY 5 MAY.

(II) THE U S A WOULD THEN TRANSMIT THE TEXT TO LIMA AND REQUEST THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY NOON WASHINGTON TIME THURSDAY 6 MAY (LIMA WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE ARGENTINIANS BEFORE GIVING THEIR ACCEPTANCE).

(III) THE U S A AND PERUVIAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD THEN, AT NOON ON 6 MAY, TRANSMIT THE TEXTS TO THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENTS REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THEM WITHIN 48 HOURS.

(IV) THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD IMMEDIATELY SAY THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED THESE PROPOSALS, THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING THEM AND THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY EXPRESSED READINESS TO GIVE ORDERS FOR A CEASEFIRE TO COME INTO EFFECT AT NOON ON FRIDAY 7 MAY, PROVIDED THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION AND HAD NOTIFIED WASHINGTON AND LIMA IN DUE TIME OF ITS READINESS TO DO SO.

(V) AT NOON ON 7 MAY THE CEASEFIRE WOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON BOTH SIDES.

(VI) BY NOON ON 8 MAY BOTH PARTIES WOULD HAVE REPLIED ACCEPTING THE PROPOSALS. IF EITHER PARTY FAILED TO DO SO, THE OTHER WOULD BE FREE TO REVERT TO EARLIER RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.

HENDERSON

MESSAGE FROM C IN C FLEET, 11.45 am 5th MAY

There are 11 Special Forces patrols on the Islands. They are not in continuous or-even daily radio contact. Some are a long way from their insertion (and extraction) points.

They would have to be brought out at night. To have a reasonable chance of withdrawing them on Thursday night (i.e. before the Friday noon deadline) the order to pull back must go out as soon as possible, certainly tonight. Even then, no guarantee that they can all be contacted and get to their extraction points. We need more than 24 hours.

The submarines are not a critical factor - their warning time can be reduced to 9 hours.