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FM FCO 061554Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE ROME
TELEGRAM NUMBER 101 OF 6 MAY

CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

1. CAGIATI CALLED ON MR HURD THIS MORNING ON INSTRUCTIONS AND HANDED OVER A SPEAKING NOTE REFLECTING CONTINUING ITALIAN CONCERN AT THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLANDS.

2. CAGIATI SAID THAT THERE WAS SERIOUS CONCERN IN ITALY AT THE HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND THE INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONFLICT. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT URGED BOTH PARTIES TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY BELIEVED THE BEST CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT LAY IN THE HANDS OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO WAS INSTITUTIONALLY THE PERSON BEST QUALIFIED TO AVERT AN ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT. HE WENT ON TO STRESS THE NEED FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ANY IDEAS PUT FORWARD TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND FOR A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THEM, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE ARGENTINE HAD RESPONDED FAVOURABLY.

3. MR HURD FIRST EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR COLOMBO'S STATEMENT AT THE DC CONGRESS AND FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT SO FAR. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS WERE FRAMED IN GENERAL TERMS AND THAT THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE TOO HAD BEEN LACKING IN DETAIL. THE UK WOULD GIVE A CONSTRUCTIVE REPLY TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S INITIATIVE BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE MORE SPECIFIC HAIG/PERUVIAN PROPOSALS. MR HURD AGREED WITH CAGIATI THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO COMBINE CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF BOTH SETS OF IDEAS.

4. MR HURD DREW CAGIATI'S ATTENTION TO PICCOLI'S STATEMENT AT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY CONGRESS (YOUR TELNO 229). IN REFERRING TO THE CRISIS AS AN ANACHRONISTIC COLONIAL VENTURE, PICCOLI HAD COMPLETELY MISSED THE POINT.

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WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN REPEAT MODERN INTERNATIONAL ORDER. CAGIATI AGREED. HE HAD NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF PICCOLI'S STATEMENT BUT SAID THAT IT DID NOT IN ANY CASE REFLECT HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW.

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