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TO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NO. 391 OF 12 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

YOUR TELS NOS 728 AND 729: SOUTH GEORGIA

- 311
- 312
1. MINISTERS REMAIN OF THE VIEW THAT THE INCLUSION OF SOUTH GEORGIA IN THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS IS A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK. QUITE APART FROM OUR TITLE AND THE FACT THAT WE ARE IN POSSESSION, THERE ARE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS.
 2. FIRST, WE SHALL PROBABLY NEED TO USE SOUTH GEORGIA DURING THE PERIOD OF WITHDRAWAL. ITS ANCHORAGES WILL ENABLE US TO CONDUCT THIS OPERATION MUCH MORE SATISFACTORILY THAN IF THEY WERE NOT AVAILABLE. THIS WOULD CLEARLY BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR IN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT INVOLVING DEMILITARISATION.
 3. IN THE SLIGHTLY LONGER TERM (BUT PROBABLY STILL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS), WE WISH TO BE ABLE TO RETURN THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY TEAMS, AND TO ADMINISTER THEM. THIS COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY BE DONE IF SOUTH GEORGIA'S ADMINISTRATION WERE TO BE HANDLED BY THE UN ADMINISTRATOR DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE FROM LONDON. WE MIGHT ALSO HAVE TO DEAL AGAIN WITH THE DAVIDOFF CONTRACT OR SIMILAR REQUESTS. AND WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE HMS ENDURANCE DEBARRED FROM SUPPORTING THE B A S PERSONNEL.
 4. ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS POINT MOST STRONGLY TO SOUTH GEORGIA'S EXCLUSION. THE ARGENTINES WERE ABLE AT LEAST TO CONTEMPLATE AT AN EARLIER STAGE THE EXCLUSION OF THE DEPENDENCIES FROM PROPOSED AGREEMENTS (PARA 1 OF WASHINGTON TELNO 1686).
- GIVEN THE VERY REAL PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE (YOU SHOULD NOT REVEAL PARA 2 AT THIS STAGE YOU SHOULD ARGUE WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT IT WOULD BE TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPENDENCIES TO BE DEALT

1

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4921 - 3

WITH IN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT NOW UNDER DISCUSSION. IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO THINK THAT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE NEGOTIATED IN THE TIME AVAILABLE. THEY WOULD INTRODUCE A NEW FACTOR OF GREAT COMPLEXITY. MUCH THE BEST COURSE IS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE FALKLANDS ONLY.

5. YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE SYG AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARILY SAYING THAT THE FUTURE OF THE DEPENDENCIES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DEFINITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE PRESENT AGREEMENT, BUT AS THEY ARE DEPENDENCIES OF THE UK AND NOT OF THE FALKLANDS AND THEIR HISTORY AND CIRCUMSTANCES ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT IT IS REASONABLE THAT THEY SHOULD BE TREATED QUITE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS REGARDS THEIR FUTURE.

6. YOU COULD PUT IT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT IF THE QUESTION OF SOUTH GEORGIA IS NOT INCLUDED IN HIS INTERIM AGREEMENT, WE MAY BE PREPARED TO OVERLOOK FOR THE PRESENT THE ILLEGAL ARGENTINIAN PRESENCE ON THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS.

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LIMITED
HD/S AM D
HD/DEF D
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/UND
HD/NEWS D
HD/ERD
HD/PUSD
DEP HD/PUSD
PS
PS/MR HURD
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2

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