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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 200111Z MAY 82

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 790 OF 19 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON PARIS MADRID DUBLIN PEKING MOSCOW

WARSAW TOKYO AMMAN ACCRA KINSHASA KAMPALA GEORGETOWN PANAMA CITY.

TOP COPY

MIPT: (NOT TO ALL): FALKLANDS.

SUMMARY

1. THIS EVENING'S INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WENT WELL. THERE WAS NO DISPOSITION TO MOVE INTO A FORMAL MEETING NOR ANY PROPOSALS FOR PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED US DIFFICULTY. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND I REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE STAGE REACHED. ALL MEMBERS WHO SPOKE SUPPORTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EFFORTS, ENCOURAGED HIM TO CONTINUE AND CALLED FOR THE PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT MEANWHILE. AT THE END I SAID THAT I TOOK NOTE OF WHAT HAD BEEN SAID AND WOULD CONVEY IT TO YOU BEFORE TOMORROW'S DEBATE.

DETAIL.

2. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SPOKE FIRST. HE SAID THAT ON 17 MAY HE HAD RECEIVED FROM ME A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF WRITTEN PROPOSALS WHICH HE HAD TRANSMITTED TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. LATE ON 18 MAY HE HAD RECEIVED THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE. THIS AFTERNOON (19 MAY) I HAD GIVEN HIM HM GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERED REACTION TO THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. BUT THERE REMAINED MAJOR UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES. HE HAD TODAY SPOKEN BY TELEPHONE TO PRESIDENT GALTIERI AND TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE TIME LEFT WAS VERY SHORT. THE PRICE OF FAILING TO REACH AGREEMENT WOULD BE HIGH IN HUMAN LIFE AND SUFFERING. URGENT EFFORTS MUST CONTINUE TO FIND PEACE. WITH THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN EVERY WAY.

3. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS. I CONFIRMED THAT ON 17 MAY I HAD GIVEN HIM YOUR FINAL POSITION. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT TODAY WAS A CRUCIAL DAY IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I REGRETTED THAT THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE LEFT VERY WIDE GAPS BETWEEN OUR TWO POSITIONS: IT COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY HM GOVERNMENT. I WOULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL NOR DELIVER A CATALOGUE OF BRITISH FLEXIBILITY: IT WOULD BE DISHONOURABLE TO DO SO WHEN ARGENTINA WAS NOT PRESENT. I WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF AGREEMENT BEING REACHED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. STATEMENTS WERE THEN MADE BY IRELAND (TWICE AND AT LENGTH), JORDAN (ALSO AT LENGTH), UGANDA, PANAMA (TWICE), ZAIRE AND THE SOVIET UNION. ALL EXPRESSED SUPPORT AND PRAISE FOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS AND ALL EXPRESSED THE HOPE, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF EMPHASIS, THAT THE PARTIES WOULD MEANWHILE EXERCISE RESTRAINT. IRELAND SAID THAT ITS REQUEST FOR A FORMAL MEETING REMAINED ON THE TABLE BUT AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO CASE FOR SUCH A MEETING AT PRESENT. THE ONLY SPEAKER TO COME ANYWHERE NEAR ASKING

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FOR A FORMAL MEETING WAS TROYANOVSKY (USSR) WHO SAID THAT IF NO PROGRESS WAS REPORTED AT THE NEXT INFORMAL MEETING, THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER A FORMAL MEETING. THE PANAMANIAN'S INTERVENTIONS WERE SNIDE, THE SECOND OF THEM ATTEMPTING TO CAST DOUBT ON OUR SUPPORT FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CONTINUING EFFORTS. 5. IN ORDER TO AVOID PROVOKING A WIDER DEBATE, WITH THE POSSIBLE RISK OF A FORMAL SESSION TONIGHT, I THOUGHT IT BETTER NOT TO SAY EXPLICITLY THAT AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED THE PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD ENDED. AT THE SAME TIME, I DID NOT WISH TO LAY US OPEN TO CHARGES OF BAD FAITH AFTER TOMORROW'S DEBATE IN THE HOUSE. I THEREFORE INTERVENED A SECOND TIME TOWARDS THE END OF THE DISCUSSION TO SAY FIRST, IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS REMARKS ABOUT MY DECLARED "PESSIMISM", THAT IT WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT WE HAD WORKED OUT WITH GREAT CARE OUR FINAL POSITION BUT THAT WE HAD NOW RECEIVED UNACCEPTABLE ARGENTINE COMMENTS ON IT; AND SECONDLY THAT I HAD TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND WOULD FAITHFULLY REPORT THEM TO YOU BEFORE TOMORROW'S DEBATE. I THUS GAVE NO-ONE ANY GROUNDS TO CLAIM THAT WE HAD ACCEPTED THE VARIOUS CALLS FOR RESTRAINT AND MODERATION. 6. SUMMING UP, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT ALL WERE GRATEFUL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HIS EFFORTS; THAT HE HAD ASKED TO BE GIVEN A LITTLE MORE TIME, THOUGH HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT EMBARKED ON AN ENDLESS PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS; THAT MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THIS AND HAD APPEALED TO BOTH PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT; AND THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE MATTER CLOSELY. 7. SEE MIFT (NOT TO ALL).

PARSONS

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FAKLANDS SELECTIVE

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HD/PLANNING STAFF

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HD/NEWS D

→ HD/ERD HD/EC(D)(E)

HD/PUSD

DEP HD/PUSD

PS

PS/MR HURD

→ PS/MR ONSLOW PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS

MR BULLARD

SIR I SINCLAIR

MR GIFFARD

MR WRIGHT

MR GILLMORE

MR URE

MR BARRETT

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