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TELEGRAM NUMBER 789 OF 19 MAY
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395

MY TELNO 786; FALKLANDS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE DESPATCH OF MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE AND THE OPENING OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (SEE MY IFT).
2. I TOLD COLES (NO. 10) THAT URQUHART HAD RECOMMENDED TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR THAT HE SPEAK TO THE PRIME MINISTER AFTER HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GALTIERI. I PERSUADED URQUHART THAT THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING THE CALL SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE AGREED.
3. PEREZ DE CUELLAR SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE ME HIS ACCOUNT OF BOTH CONVERSATIONS. HE SAID THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH GALTIERI HAD BEEN GROTESQUE, THE LATTER'S ARGENTINE ACCENT BEING SCARCELY COMPREHENSIBLE. GALTIERI SEEMED TO BE READING FROM A PREPARED TEXT. HIS MAIN ARGUMENT HAD BEEN (HE HAD OBVIOUSLY RECEIVED A REPORT FROM ROS IN THE MEANTIME) THAT THE BRITISH WERE BEING INFLEXIBLE AND THAT THE ARGENTINES WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING UNDER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S AUSPICES. THE QUESTION OF ENVOYS HAD COME UP. GALTIERI HAD INSISTED THAT IF ANYONE WENT TO BUENOS AIRES, SOMEONE MUST ALSO GO TO LONDON. PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. GALTIERI HAD SUGGESTED A MEETING IN NEW YORK BETWEEN YOU AND COSTA MENDEZ. PEREZ DE CUELLAR FOBBED THIS OFF. THERE WAS A BIT MORE IN THE SAME VEIN BUT NOTHING OF ANY CONSEQUENCE - IT WAS A VERY SHORT CONVERSATION.
4. PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS DELIGHTED WITH HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID THAT SHE HAD BEEN VERY FRIENDLY. SHE HAD LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT AS TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ARGENTINE PROPOSALS AND THAT THIS WOULD BE MADE CLEAR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TOMORROW (20 MAY). HE HAD GRASPED THE WRONG END OF THE STICK WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID THAT SHE WAS PREPARED TO LOOK AT FRESH PROPOSALS. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MEANT THAT SHE WOULD BE PREPARED TO LOOK AT ANY TOTALLY FRESH PROPOSALS, I.E. SHE BELIEVED THAT THE PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS OVER.
5. I THEN EXPLAINED OUR POSITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE THE CONSULTATIONS STARTED. I TOLD HIM WHAT I PROPOSED TO SAY IN THE COUNCIL. I SAID THAT, IF THERE WAS A GENERAL INCLINATION TO GO INTO FORMAL SESSION THIS EVENING, I WAS

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READY. BUT I THOUGHT THAT COUNCIL SHOULD THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE EMBARKING ON SUCH A COURSE. I HAD ALREADY SPOKEN FAIRLY STERNLY TO DORR (IRELAND), OTUNNU (UGANDA) AND KARRAN (GUYANA). ONLY THE FIRST NAMED SEEMED TO BE HANKERING AFTER SOME KIND OF FORMAL MEETING TONIGHT. I TOLD HIM THAT, ONCE WE GOT INTO THE CHAMBER THE BALLOON WOULD GO UP AND NEITHER HE NOR ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING IT DOWN AGAIN.

PARSONS

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FALKLANDS SELECTIVE
LIMITED

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HD/DEF D

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/UND

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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