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Reviewer

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: AR, FA, UK, US
SUBJECT: SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS: MAY 6 PRESS BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS
FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON MAY 6.
MR. FISCHER WAS THE BRIEFER.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

Q. CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE FALKLANDS DIPLO-
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MACY, AND IS THERE ANY PROSPECT THAT THE SECRETARY WILL
GO TO NEW YORK FOR THE U.N.?

A. TAKING YOUR LATTER QUESTION FIRST, I KNOW OF NO
PLANS AT THIS POINT FOR THE SECRETARY TO GO TO NEW YORK.

TAKING YOUR FIRST QUESTION LAST, AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESI-
DENT ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS CONTRO-
VERSY TODAY, AND THERE IS LITTLE I CAN ADD TO WHAT THE
PRESIDENT SAID. AMONG OTHER THINGS, AS YOU KNOW, HE
SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WORKING TO ACHIEVE
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF U.N. SECUR-
ITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502, WHICH CALLS FOR BOTH A CEASE-

FIRE AND A WITHDRAWAL.

I WOULD ADD THAT WE WOULD WELCOME, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, ANY FORUM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A SOLUTION IN ACCORD WITH THOSE PRINCIPLES INCLUDED IN RESOLUTION 502. WE ARE NOT SINGLING OUT ANY PARTICULAR APPROACH IN THE PURSUIT OF A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE. WE ARE PURSUING EVERY OPENING THAT WE HOPE COULD LEAD TO A SOLUTION.

Q. COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE PERUVIAN OPENING A LITTLE BIT?

A. AGAIN, I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF PERU HAS BEEN INVOLVED, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT. I WOULD SIMPLY UNDERSCORE THAT BY SAYING THAT PERU'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE ARE HELPFUL AND THAT THEY HAVE OUR SUPPORT.

Q. WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US REGARDING A POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, UNLESS SOMETHING UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS HAPPENED ON THAT TODAY WHICH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED ON IT TODAY. MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THERE WERE TO HAVE BEEN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY, AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THOSE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE AGAIN TODAY. I DON'T HAVE A FIRMER READING ON IT THAN THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A POSITION ON WHETHER WE'RE INTERESTED IN A FURTHER MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY POSITION I CAN OFFER YOU ON THAT.

Q. YOU QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS SAYING THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WORKING TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT WHICH CALLS FOR BOTH A CEASE-FIRE AND A WITHDRAWAL.

A. YES.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT BECAUSE PERHAPS THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A CEASE-FIRE BEFORE A WITHDRAWAL?

A. I WASN'T LINKING MY REMARKS TO IT. I WAS SIMPLY REITERATING WHAT THE RESOLUTION ITSELF CALLS FOR.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERN THAT WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED NOW IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WOULD PUT A CEASE-FIRE PRIOR TO A WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES?

A. I HAVE SEEN THE PRESS SPECULATION ON THAT, BUT,

AS I SAID, OUR POSITION IS THAT THE TWO HAVE TO BE LINKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 502.

Q. IS THAT ALSO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BRITISH POSITION?
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TION?

A. I CAN'T SPEAK TO THAT.

Q. IS THERE NOW IN EFFECT A DE FACTO CEASE-FIRE?

A. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN ADD TO WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON THAT SUBJECT YESTERDAY, AND, AS YOU KNOW, HE SAID "NO."

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON A PUBLIC SESSION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL? I'D READ SOMEWHERE THAT THE U.S.

--

A. A PUBLIC SESSION?

Q. AN OPEN SESSION. TODAY I'D READ THAT THE U.S. FAVORED, IN SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH POSITION, A CLOSED SESSION.

A. I THINK I SAW A REPORT TO THAT EFFECT MYSELF. WE HAVEN'T TAKEN A POSITION, AND I HAVE NONE I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT TODAY, BUT MRS. KIRKPATRICK HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT THE U.N.

Q. IS SECRETARY HAIG STILL ONE OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN THIS? I ASK THIS AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF -- THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN LIMA HAS ACTED THERE WITH THE PERUVIAN DIPLOMATS, AND THE ARGENTINES APPARENTLY HAVE SENT TWO OF THEIR DIPLOMATS TO LIMA.

IS HE STEPPING BACK AWAY FROM THE PROCESS NOW?

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A. NO. I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE HIS ROLE IN ANY WAY LIKE THAT. HE REMAINS VERY ACTIVELY ENGAGED. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS IN TODAY FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, SO THAT HE IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED.

Q. HAVE THE PERUVIAN PROPOSALS, AS MODIFIED BY THE SECRETARY AND COMMENTED UPON BY THE BRITISH, BEEN FORWARDED BACK TO THE PERUVIANS SO THE ARGENTINES CAN SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?

A. I CAN'T COMMENT ON THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS IN THAT

KIND OF DETAIL.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY HAD ANY CONTACT WITH THE ARGENTINIANS SINCE LAST FRIDAY?

A. I WILL HAVE TO STICK WITH WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SUPPLY YOU OR PROVIDE YOU WITH A SCORECARD OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS CONTACTS.

Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY SOMETHING: THE SECRETARY GENERAL NOW SEEMS DETERMINED TO PRESS ON WITH HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS, AND TODAY THE BRITISH SAID THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE U.N. AS A FRAMEWORK ALTHOUGH THEY STILL WANT WITHDRAWAL AS PART OF THE CEASE-FIRE.

AND YOU SAID THE U.S. SUPPORTS ANY INITIATIVE, BUT IN REALITY IS THE U.S. WILLING OR GOING TO HELP OUT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS, OR ARE THERE TWO PARALLEL TRACKS THAT ARE GOING TO KEEP, IN A SENSE, COMPETING FOR ATTENTION HERE?

A. THE FOCUS AGAIN, THE EMPHASIS, HAS TO BE UPON OUR WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE EVERY OPENING THAT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY LEAD TO A SOLUTION.
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Q. YOU USED THE TERM "FALKLANDS/MALVINAS CONTROVERSY." WAS THAT A CONSCIOUS DECISION ON YOUR PART TO --

A. YES. I USUALLY REFER TO IT AS THE CRISIS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Q. SO YOU'VE DECIDED NOW TO GO ALONG WITH THE SPANISH HALFWAY AT LEAST ON THIS NAME?

A. PLEASE DON'T READ ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT INTO MY DESCRIPTION OF IT.

Q. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TRACKS, DO WE CONSIDER ANY ONE TRACK TO BE MORE HOPEFUL THAN ANOTHER? ARE WE WORKING SPECIFICALLY ON ONE TRACK BECAUSE WE THINK THAT THAT WOULD BEAR FRUIT OR IS MORE LIKELY TO BEAR FRUIT?

A. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE OUR EFFORTS IN THAT WAY. WE'RE EAGER AND ANXIOUS TO PURSUE ANY TRACK THAT WE THINK IS FEASIBLE IN THE PURSUIT OF THE OBJECTIVE.

Q. BUT ARE THERE TWO TRACKS OR ARE THEY ALL ONE?

A. I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE IT AS ONE OR TWO OR THREE OR X NUMBER OF TRACKS. IT'S JUST AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE SECRETARY, ACTING AT THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS,

TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION.

Q. ARE THESE TRACKS COMPETING?

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A. NO. I'M NOT EVEN ACCEPTING THE DESCRIPTION THAT THERE ARE TRACKS INVOLVED HERE.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY TALKED WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OR ANY OF HIS PEOPLE?

A. I SAID I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A LIST OF THE VARIOUS PEOPLE AND OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT OTHER THAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE OBVIOUS WHICH IS WHEN AMBASSADOR HENDERSON COMES INTO THE BUILDING.

Q. BUT WHEN YOU SAY THAT PERU'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN "HELPFUL" AND "HAVE OUR SUPPORT," DOES THAT GO FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS AS WELL?

A. IT SEEMS TO ME WHAT I SAID EARLIER APPLIES TO ALL OF THE EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION.

Q. BUT WE'RE NOT TRYING IN ANY WAY TO SINGLE OUT PERU'S EFFORTS AS OPPOSED TO ANY OTHERS BY YOUR STATEMENT THAT IT WAS BOTH HELPFUL AND HAS OUR SUPPORT?

A. I WAS ASKED A QUESTION THAT HAD TO DO WITH PERU, AND I RESPONDED IN THAT CONTEXT.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL AND HAVE OUR SUPPORT?

A. WE ARE ANXIOUS, AS I SAID, TO PURSUE EVERY AVENUE WHICH HAS ANY HOPE OF ACHIEVING THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE.

Q. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT HERE THIS MORNING?

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A. TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON IN RECENT DAYS.

Q. DIDN'T HE DELIVER THE BRITISH REPLY YESTERDAY TO MR. HAIG'S MOST RECENT WORK ON THE PERUVIAN IDEAS?

A. IT HAS BEEN SO REPORTED.

Q. PERHAPS YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, BUT IS THERE ONE SET OF PROPOSALS THAT EVERYBODY IS CONTRIBUTING TO? THE PERUVIANS, THE U.N. --

A. NO.

Q. -- OR ARE THERE IN FACT SEVERAL SETS OF PROPOSALS?

A. THERE ARE NUMEROUS IDEAS ADVANCED BY NUMEROUS PARTIES IN AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE.

Q. THERE IS NO "PEACE PLAN," AS SUCH?

A. YOU KNOW THAT WE SUBMITTED OUR OWN SET OF PROPOSALS, U.S. PROPOSALS, EARLIER.

Q. IS IT THOSE THAT ARE BEING REFINED, WORKED ON, ADDED TO, OR ARE WE TALKING ABOUT TWO OR THREE DIFFERENT SETS OF OTHER PEOPLES' PLANS AS WELL?

A. WELL, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PLANS OF PARENTAGE, A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS ADVANCED.

Q. DEAN, THE SECRETARY SAID TEN DAYS AGO, I THINK, UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE SUREST ROAD TO PEACE WAS THROUGH U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THAT THESE PEACE PLANS WHICH ARE BEING ADVANCED HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THAT RESOLUTION, OR COULD THEY DEPART FROM IT?

A. WE HAVE MAINTAINED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH RESOLUTION 502.

Q. DEAN, IS THERE ANY REASON TODAY FOR BEING MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THAN THERE WERE YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE?

A. I FIND IT VERY UNPRODUCTIVE TO TRY TO ATTACH VALUE JUDGMENTS TO OUR FEELINGS AT THE MOMENT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE CONFIDENCE TODAY IN THE WAKE OF ALL THIS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE LAST 48 HOURS THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN FURTHER MILITARY ACTION?

A. JOHN, IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY. THERE IS NO WAY THAT I CAN RESPOND TO THAT IN ANY HELPFUL WAY.

Q. WHAT I'M ASKING YOU IS, DO YOU HAVE ANY IMPRESSION, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE NOW ACCEPTED

SOMETHING, WHICH IS, I SUPPOSE, THE U.N. MEDIATION EFFORT, THAT THERE HAS BEEN A KIND OF INFORMAL DRAWDOWN OR BACKING OFF BY THE TWO SIDES MILITARILY THAT WOULD ALLOW DIPLOMACY MORE OF A CHANCE?

A. NO. I CAN'T REALLY RESPOND TO THAT, AS I SAY, IN ANY HELPFUL WAY, BECAUSE IT IS A QUESTION THAT I THINK HAS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE TWO PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

Q. DEAN, LET ME PUT THE QUESTION THIS WAY: MRS. THATCHER UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS SAID THAT THEY ACCEPT THE U.N. PROPOSALS IN PRINCIPLE

A. AS A FRAMEWORK.

Q. -- I'M SORRY, AS A FRAMEWORK. AND THE ARGENTINES HAVE SAID THEY ACCEPT IT IN PRINCIPLE. WHAT DO YOU TAKE THAT TO MEAN?

A. THEY'LL HAVE TO ARTICULATE THAT THEMSELVES. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO TRY TO ELABORATE UPON WHAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE SAID ABOUT THE PROPOSALS.

Q. DO YOU THINK IT TAKES US CLOSER TO A SOLUTION OR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OR NOT?

A. I JUST CAN'T JUDGE THAT. WE CONTINUE TO BE HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION, BUT BEYOND THAT I CAN'T REALLY OFFER YOU ANY HELPFUL COMMENTARY.

Q. DEAN, IS THE FRAMEWORK THAT MRS. THATCHER AND THE ARGENTINES SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE SAME FRAMEWORK THAT THE PRESIDENT OF PERU PUT FORTH, OR ARE THERE TWO DIFFERENT FRAMEWORKS THAT ARE BEING WORKED ON SIMULTANEOUSLY?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS.

Q. AS THE SECRETARY CONTINUES TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR HENDERSON, IS HE CONTINUING HIS ROLE AS AN ALLY OR IS HE MOVING BACK INTO THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR?

A. THE SECRETARY HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF AND HIS PERCEPTION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF HIS ROLE, AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD.

Q. SEVERAL DAYS AGO YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T CHARACTERIZE THE SECRETARY'S ROLE ANY LONGER AS THAT OF A MEDIATOR. HAS THAT CHANGED SINCE --

A. WE NEVER DID CHARACTERIZE HIS ROLE AS THAT OF A MEDIATOR. WE DID CHARACTERIZE IT AS AN EFFORT ON HIS PART TO BE HELPFUL IN ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND THAT ROLE HAS NEVER CHANGED.

Q. DEAN, ONE ELEMENT IN THE U.N. PLAN THAT FRANCIS PYM SAID "MIGHT VERY WELL BE A SUITABLE SOLUTION" IS A U.N. TRUSTEESHIP. DOES THE U.S. ALSO THINK THIS MIGHT BE A SUITABLE SOLUTION?

A. I JUST DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON VARIOUS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM.

Q. DEAN, YOU SAID THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS IN THE U.N. SECRETARY'S PLAN.

A. RIGHT.

Q. DOES SECRETARY HAIG?

A. I HAVEN'T ASKED HIM.

Q. DOES ANYONE IN THIS BUILDING, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, KNOW WHAT IS IN THE U.N. SECRETARY'S PLAN?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. DID WE SEND ANY LETTER TO THE BRITISH, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE TORPEDOING OF THE CRUISER THE OTHER DAY?
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A. THE ANSWER IS, NO, NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. I DID SEE THAT REPORTED. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH LETTER.

Q. ANY COMMENT ON THE OFFER OF CUBAN AID TO ARGENTINA?

A. NO, NO SPECIFIC COMMENT OTHER THAN TO SUGGEST THAT WE WOULD NOT REGARD IT AS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE.

Q. DEAN, THE OTHER DAY SECRETARY HAIG SAID THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARGENTINE JUNTA WAS CHARACTERIZED BY INTRANSIGENCE. DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE CASE? IS THAT THE MAJOR OBSTACLE IN WORKING OUT A SOLUTION?
-

A. FAR BE IT FROM ME TO PUBLICLY ENGAGE OR EVEN PRIVATELY ENGAGE IN A DISPUTE WITH THE SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT.

Q. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF A DISPUTE, DEAN; IT'S A QUESTION OF UPDATING THE ASSESSMENT. HE WAS SPEAKING OF

SOMETHING TWO DAYS AGO NOW.

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT. I'LL STAND BY WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID.

Q. DEAN, I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND SOMETHING YOU SAID EARLIER. THERE WERE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES AND HAIG WOULD FAVOR A 72-HOUR CEASEFIRE, SEPARATE FROM ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL OR ANY OTHER ACTION. WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER, I TAKE IT, MEANS THAT THAT IS NOT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT WE ARE NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PUSHING FOR A SEPARATE, WHETHER IT BE A 48-HOUR, A 24-HOUR, OR A 72-HOUR CEASEFIRE.

A. I HAVE NOT SAID PUBLICLY PRECISELY WHAT OUR PROPOSAL IS IN THAT RESPECT, AND I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE CEASEFIRE WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FALKLANDS.

A. IN THE CONTEXT OF U.N. RESOLUTION 502; IT CALLS FOR BOTH.

Q. BUT SEPARATE FROM THAT, THERE COULD BE A CEASEFIRE WHICH WE WOULD SUPPORT.

A. I CAN'T SAY WHETHER WE WOULD SUPPORT IT OR WHETHER WE WOULDN'T SUPPORT IT. - -

Q. DEAN, CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN HAS MADE ANY REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ANY SORT OF MILITARY SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOUTH ATLANTIC?

A. NO, I COULD NOT TELL YOU THAT.

Q. IS IT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW OR THAT YOU WOULDN'T COMMENT ON IT? - - -

A. I DIDN'T SAY I DIDN'T KNOW. I SAID I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT. - - ---

Q. AS OF TWO DAYS AGO, SECRETARY HAIG SAID THAT NO REQUESTS HAD BEEN YET RECEIVED. IS THAT STILL THE SITUATION?

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A. I'M JUST NOT GOING TO COMMENT AT THIS POINT. END

TEXT. HAIG

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