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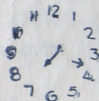
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INDEX	FILE	NUMBER	DATE

27 MAY



GR 450
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FM WASHINGTON 270130Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1914 OF 27 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND ALL OAS POSTS

FALKLANDS: RIO TREATY

1. THE MEETING OF RIO TREATY SIGNATORIES, WHICH ADJOURNED ON 29 APRIL, WILL RECONVENE IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW (27 MAY).

2. ARGENTINA'S PURPOSE IN CALLING FOR THE MEETING IS TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE U S AS MUCH AS THE UK. IN SPITE OF OUR LANDINGS ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THERE IS YET A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF RIO SIGNATORIES IN FAVOUR OF TAKING COLLECTIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST US; FAILING THAT, THE ARGENTINES ARE LIKELY TO GO FOR A RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS ON MEMBER STATES TO TAKE WHATEVER NATIONAL MEASURES EACH JUDGES NECESSARY TO FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THE RIO TREATY.

3. THE AMERICANS, TOGETHER WITH THE COLOMBIANS, HAVE FOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO AVOID THE RECONVENING OF THE MEETING, AND THEY ARE NOW LOBBYING AGAINST THE PROBABLE INCLUSION IN ANY RESOLUTION OF A SECTION CRITICIZING U S SUPPORT FOR THE UK AND DEMANDING THAT IT CEASE FORTHWITH. SEVERAL OF ARGENTINA'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS IN THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE, PARTICULARLY VENEZUELA AND PANAMA, ARE SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS INCLUSION OF SUCH A POINT AS A MEANS OF PRESSURING THE US. THEY ARE JOINED BY NICARAGUA, WHICH SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE DISARRAY WITHIN THE RIO TREATY SINCE IT REGARDS THE TREATY AS PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST ITSELF AND ITS COMMUNIST FRIENDS. THUS THERE IS AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE ACTUALLY TO BREAK UP THE MECHANISM OF THE RIO TREATY, AND OTHERS WHO REGARD THE AMERICANS AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE THREAT OF A BREAK-UP, NOT-WITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THEY THEMSELVES WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED IN THE FUTURE BY SUCH AN OUTCOME.

4. THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING COULD PROVE A TURNING POINT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE RIO TREATY WHICH THEY HAVE USED SEVERAL TIMES AS A REGIONAL MECHANISM FOR RESISTING COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THEY RECOGNISE SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY THAT THIS CRISIS IS INEVITABLE GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE UK. THEY WILL HAVE TO RELY HEAVILY ON THE ARGUMENT THAT SINCE THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL IS ONCE AGAIN SEIZED OF THE PROBLEM, (WITH HOWEVER LITTLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS) IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE REGIONAL BODY TO TAKE MAJOR ACTION.

5. PLEASE SEE MIFT (NOT TO ALL).

HENDERSON