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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
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MIPT.

FALKLANDS:

28

1. HAIG WHO HAS JUST SPOKEN TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR, DISCUSSED WITH ME VIA EAGLEBURGER THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S 24 HOUR DEADLINE TO ARGENTINA AND OURSELVES TO PROVIDE OUR QUOTE BOTTOM LINE UNQUOTE ON A CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL.

2. PEREZ DE CUELLAR CLAIMED THAT SIR A PARSONS TOLD HIM THAT THE UK COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY CEASEFIRE WHICH WAS LINKED TO MUTUAL AS OPPOSED TO ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL. ARGENTINA HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT AN UNCONDITIONAL CEASEFIRE FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF A UNILATERAL ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL.

3. PEREZ DE CUELLAR CLAIMED TO HAIG THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE FRENCH AND WEST GERMANS, BOTH OF WHOM WERE ALLEGEDLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARGENTINE POSITION(SIC). HE TOLD HAIG THAT HE COULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM GIVEN THE PRESENT UK ATTITUDE AND URGED HAIG TO QUOTE WEIGH IN WITH THE BRITISH UNQUOTE. HAIG HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.

4. HAIG IS HOWEVER MOST ANXIOUS THAT WE SHOULD NOT (NOT) GIVE PEREZ DE CUELLAR A DEFINITIVE ANSWER UNTIL AFTER THE RIO TREATY MEETING DUE TO BEGIN HERE TOMORROW. ASSUMING THAT OUR BOTTOM LINE IS AS DESCRIBED BY PARSONS, THE AMERICANS ARE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT THIS SHOULD BE CONCEALED UNTIL AS LATE AS POSSIBLE (IF NECESSARY BY PROVIDING A TEMPORISING REPLY BY PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S DEADLINE OF 6 PM NEW YORK TIME TOMORROW).

5. HAIG IS EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE RIO MEETING AND FORESEES THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR AND POSSIBLE TERMINAL CRISIS WITHIN THE OAS AND THE TREATY. HE BELIEVES THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE ALREADY PREPARED A DRAFT SHARPLY HOSTILE TO THE US, AND BELIEVES THAT ARGENTINA'S POSITION WOULD BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED IF THAT RESOLUTION WERE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF A SPECIFIC BRITISH REAFFIRMATION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OUR REFUSAL TO LINK A CEASEFIRE TO A MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL.

6. HAIG IS CERTAINLY HOPING THAT OUR RAPID MILITARY ACTION WILL RENDER THE QUESTION OF MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL ACADEMIC.

HENDERSON

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