

ENCL No.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

AL -
cc Negotiations

OWG196 04/1813 155B4274

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 041430Z JUN 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
CINCFLEET

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SIC A3A/A2N/19F

CONFIDENTIAL

FM PARIS 041430Z JUN 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 594 OF 4 JUNE
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 581 AND 582: FALKLANDS: FRENCH ATTITUDE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. THE FRENCH SHOWED MARKED RELUCTANCE YESTERDAY (3 JUNE) TO MEET OUR REQUEST THAT THEY SHOULD WEIGH IN WITH TOGO AND ZAIRE. GUTMANN AND SCHEER STUCK TO THE ARGUMENT THAT NANTEUIL AS PRESIDENT HAD TO SHOW NEUTRALITY AND RESPONDED COOLLY TO MY SUGGESTION THAT AN APPROACH COULD BE MADE DIRECTLY FROM PARIS.

2. GUTMANN SAID THAT THE FRENCH AND AMERICANS HAD AGREED TO BACK THE UK ON THIS OCCASION IN THE COUNCIL, BUT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS BECOMING LESS FAVOURABLE AND BOTH WOULD BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE FROM THE UK.

3. THE FRENCH RELUCTANCE WAS OF A PIECE WITH CHEYSSON'S REMARK TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS (REPORTED IN TODAY'S TIMES AND ELSEWHERE) THAT HE WAS SORRY HE HAD NOT HEARD THE EXPRESSION 'NEGOTIATION!!' IN BRITISH MOUTHS IN RECENT DAYS. HE IS REPORTED IN THE FRENCH PRESS TO HAVE SAID THAT FRANCE SUPPORTED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CALL FOR A TRUCE TO ENABLE THE ARGENTINES TO WITHDRAW, AND TO HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT CONTINUED BRITISH PRESSURE ON PORT STANLEY WOULD PREVENT A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. WE HAVE ASKED THE QUAI FOR A TEXT OF WHAT CHEYSSON SAID BUT OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT THERE WAS UNLIKELY TO BE ONE. THEIR COMMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS TO THE EMBASSY WAS THAT FRENCH POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED. IN FACT, CHEYSSON SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SAYING IN PUBLIC WHAT CERTAIN FRENCH OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY SAID IN PRIVATE.

4. A COMBINATION OF FACTORS UNDERLIE THE PRESENT FRENCH ATTITUDE. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA (PROBABLY MORE SO NOW THAT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IS BEING RECALLED - MY TELNO 582), AND ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THEIR ALIGNMENT WITH BRITAIN OF THEIR SELF-APPOINTED

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ROLE AS A HINGE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE ARMS LOBBY. THE PRESS IS SHOWING NO PARTICULAR SYMPATHY FOR BRITAIN AT THE MOMENT, ALTHOUGH LE MATIN TODAY GAVE PROMINENCE TO MR PYM'S INTERVIEW. THERE IS EVIDENTLY A FEELING ABROAD IN THE QUAI THAT THE FRENCH HAVE BY NOW DONE ENOUGH TO BE HELPFUL. THEY SEEM TO THINK THEY HAVE THE AMERICANS ON BOARD IN ASKING THAT THE UK DO SOMETHING IN RETURN, WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT FURTHER HELP WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THIS. THEY ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE LONGER TERM RESULTS OF THE CONFLICT AND WANT TO PROTECT FRENCH INTERESTS AGAINST THE CONSEQUENCES OF ARGENTINE BITTERNESS FOLLOWING A MILITARY DEFEAT. THIS WILL TEND TO LIMIT THE PRACTICAL HELP WE SHALL GET FROM THEM IN THE UN.

FRETWELL
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