

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 1394 OF 21 APRIL 1982,

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: SOVIET INVOLVEMENT

1. EAGLEBURGER TOLD MINISTER THIS EVENING THAT HE HAD NOW SEEN DOBRYNIN TWICE ABOUT THE FALKLANDS. THE FIRST TIME WAS TO WARN THE SOVIETS OFF THE GRASS. THE SECOND WAS TO GET THEIR UNCOMPROMISING RESPONSE.

2. HE HAD PROTESTED TO DOBRYNIN ABOUT THE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED BY THE SOVIET PRESS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PRESENT CRISIS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO DISTORT US EFFORTS TO AVERT ARMED CONFLICT. HE HAD UNDERLINED THAT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ISSUE WAS BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINA AND WAS NOT AN EAST-WEST ISSUE. THE US WAS SEEKING TO PREVENT FURTHER MILITARY ACTION BY EITHER SIDE AND TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A PROCESS WHICH ADDRESSED THE ISSUES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOVEREIGNTY. HE HAD CONCLUDED WITH STRONG EMPHASIS THAT INVOLVEMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION OR ITS FRIENDS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS

SOVERIGNTY. HE HAD CONCLUDED WITH STRONG EMPHASIS THAT INVOLVEMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION OR ITS FRIENDS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS WOULD "HOPELESSLY COMPLICATE AND PERHAPS IRREPARABLY DAMAGE" AMERICANS HOPES FOR MOVING FORWARD IN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT.

3. DOBRYNIN HAD REJECTED THE AMERICAN ALLEGATIONS. THE WARNING ABOUT INVOLVEMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION OR ITS FRIENDS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS WAS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE. HE ACCUSED THE US OF TRYING TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE FACT OF US ACTIVE INTERFERENCE IN THE ANGLO-ARGENTINE CONFLICT. DOBRYNIN FINISHED RATHER LAMELY THAT THE ARTIFICIAL NATURE OF THE US PRESENTATION WAS SO OBVIOUS THAT IT WAS HARDLY NECESSARY TO DWELL ON IT IN DETAIL. AS EAGLEBURGER HAD DONE, HE HANDED OVER A PIECE OF PAPER SETTING OUT WHAT HE HAD SAID. EAGLEBURGER MADE NO COMMENT.

HENDERSON

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