

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

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GRS 350

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CARACAS 222300Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 120 OF 22 APRIL

AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

WASHINGTON (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)

MY TELNO 113 AND YOUR TELNO 82 TO BRASILIA: FALKLAND ISLANDS AND OAS

1. UNTIL A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, IT LOOKED AS IF THE HERRERA GOVERNMENT WERE TRYING TO COOL THINGS AND TO KEEP ALL OPTIONS OPEN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, PROBABLY TAKING NO ACTION BEFORE SHOOTING OCCURRED. OUR LATEST INFORMATION INDICATES A SHARP CHANGE IN TONE. IT COMES FROM DR MONSANT, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECRETARY OF GOVERNING COPEI PARTY AND DRAWS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING GIVEN BY VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ZAMBRANO. THE MINISTER, WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON BY SATURDAY 24 APRIL, IS LIKELY TO TAKE A VERY HARD LINE AT THE OAS MEETING.

2. THE VENEZUELAN'S EXPECT THE MEETING TO CONCLUDE WITH A VOTE ON EITHER MONDAY OR TUESDAY, BRINGING THE RIO TREATY INTO FORCE. ALTHOUGH MONSANT WOULD NOT REVEAL THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARGENTINE

ON EITHER MONDAY OR TUESDAY, BRINGING THE RIO TREATY INTO FORCE. ALTHOUGH MONSANT WOULD NOT REVEAL THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION, THE VENEZUELAN PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD GET THE NECESSARY TWO THIRDS MAJORITY. ZAMBRANO HIMSELF WAS TAKING A RESOLUTION, WHICH WOULD CALL FOR A FREEZE ON THE MOVEMENT OF THE BRITISH FLEET IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WOULD BE A BACK-UP TO THE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION, IF THAT SHOULD FAIL. MONSANT SAID THAT THE VENEZUELAN WERE UNIMPRESSED BY THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS IN THE CASE, WHETHER RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS OR OTHERWISE. THEY WERE WORKING TO PRINCIPLES OF REGIONAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST WHAT THEY SEE AS AN EXTRA-CONTINENTAL AGGRESSION.

3. MONSANT SAID THAT, IF THE RIO TREATY WERE INVOKED, THE VENEZUELAN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO MAKE SOME GESTURE, WHETHER OR NOT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUING OR SHOOTING HAD BEGUN. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD, EITHER INVOLVING THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS ONLY OR A DIPLOMATIC BREAK.

4. VENEZUELAN ACTION AGAINST BRITAIN COULD BE PIECEMEAL. IT MIGHT IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD INCLUDE THE WITHDRAWAL OF VENEZUELAN FUNDS IN LONDON, OR IN THE MILITARY FIELD, THE PROVISION OF SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA (BUT NOT PERSONNEL).

5. THIS ACCOUNT OF VENEZUELAN INTENTIONS IS MORE FAR REACHING THAN WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES. BUT MONSANT IS CENTRALLY PLACED, FRIENDLY AND WELL KNOWN TO US. HE EXPECTS TO JOIN THE WASHINGTON DELEGATION ON MONDAY 26 APRIL.

SECONDE

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IN PARA FOUR COULD U PUT A BRACKET IN FRONT OF THE 'BUT NOT PERSONNEL ITS THE LAST LINE KKKRGRGR