HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)

(29)

PS/M. ONSLOW PS/MR RIFKIND PS/PUS MR GIFFARD MR WRIGHT MR ADAMS MR URE

MR GILLMORE

HD/DEF · D

HD/NEWS D

HD/HKGD.

HD/UND

IMMEDIATE

PS No. 10 DOWNING ST

PS/CHANCELLOR SIR K COUZENS MR LITTLER MR HAWTIN

H.M. TSY

MR PERETZ MR ILETT MR McINTYRE

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE MR FULLER SAPU/ CABINET OFFICE SIR M PALLISER, CABINET OFFICE

SIRR ARMSTRONG DID CAS. OFFICE

RESIDENT CLERK

.HD/PLANNING STAFF

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 220130Z TO IMMEDIATE F C O TELNO 1397 OF 21 APRIL 1982, AND TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK INFO IMMEDIATE NASSAU, BRIDGETOWN, LA PAZ, BRASILIA, SANTIAGO, BOGOTA, SAN JOSE, QUITO, KINGSTON, SANTO DOMINGO, TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO CITY, PANAMA CITY, ASUNCION, LIMA, PORT OF SPAIN, MONTEVIDEO.

MY TELNO 1378: FALKLANDS/OAS

- WE HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON 26 APRIL WITH A NUMBER OF INFORMED CONTACTS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION AND THE OAS SECRETARIAT.
- 2. IT IS GENERALLY THOUGHT THAT IF THE HAIG INITIATIVE IS STILL ALIVE ON MONDAY, THE ARGENTINES WILL SEEK A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THEIR POSITION AND DENOUNCING THE THREAT TO PEACE SUPPOSEDLY POSED BY THE BRITISH FLEET. THEY WOULD WIN OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS WILL TRY TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES TO PREVENT THE DAS FROM DOLLO HODE

A RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS WILL TRY TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES TO PREVENT THE OAS FROM DOING MORE THAN SUPPORTING HAIG'S EFFORTS AND CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION DOUBT IF ARGENTINA WOULD BE CONFIDENT ENOUGH OF GETT GENERAL SUPPORT TO PROPOSE, IN THE FACE OF AMERICAN RESISTANCE, A RESOLUTION SEEKING TO IMPOSE GENERAL SANCTIONS AGAINST US IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

- 3. IF, HOWEVER AN ARMED CLASH OCCURRED BEFORE THE MEETING, ARGENTINA WOULD CERTAINLY PROPOSE SANCTIONS. THE EXTENT OF THESE WOULD DECIDE THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT ARGENTINA MIGHT RECEIVE, BUT US OFFICIALS THINK THAT SOME ACTION SUCH AS THE DOWNGRADING OF RELATIONS WITH THE UK WOULD BE LIKELY TO WIN THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REQUIRED FORMALLY TO MAKE COMPLIANCE MANDATORY ON ALL RIO TREATY SIGNATORIES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MORE RADICAL MEASURES MIGHT BE APPROVED, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED THEM LATER.
- 4. APART FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC OR OTHER SANCTIONS, OAS SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA THREATENS TO DILUTE THE POSITION WE HAVE ESTABLISHED IN THE UN AND TO ENCOURAGE THE ARGENTINES IN THEIR PRESENT INTRANSIGENCE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ARGUE WITH RELIABLE CONTACTS THAT OAS ACTION WOULD CUT ACROSS UN RESPONSIBILITY, BUT GIVEN THE ELEMENT OF 'LATIN SOLIDARITY' THE AMERICANS THINK IT DOUBTFUL IF WE AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO . DISSUADE MOST RIO SIGNATORIES FROM GIVING GENERAL POLITICAL SUPPORT TO ARGENTINA IF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IS UNOBTAINABLE. THERE ARE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE AMERICANS, WHOSE COMMITMENT TO THE RIO TREATY WOULD BE PLACED IN DOUBT IF THEY REFUSED, AS THEY WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE TO DO, TO GO ALONG WITH THE ACTION APPROVED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. I AM SURE, THEREFORE, THAT WE CAN COUNT ON THE AMERICANS TO LOBBY ENERGETICALLY AGAINST SANCTIONS WITH ANY TEETH: AND, WHILE ACTION MAY WELL BE DECIDED BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW ENERGETICALLY INDIVIDUAL OAS MEMBER STATES WOULD BE LIKELY TO PUT IT INTO EFFECT.
- RESORT THE US WOULD HAVE TO USE THE ARGUMENT THAT THERE WAS NO ROLE IN THIS AFFAIR FOR THE OAS, SINCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AS THE SUPERIOR BODY, HAD PREEMPTED THE GROUND. THEY WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DO THIS BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE OCCASIONS IN FUTURE WHEN THEY WOULD WANT TO KEEP A SUBJECT WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE AND THIS PRECEDENT WOULD BE USED AGAINST THEM. IT WOULD ALSO GRAVELY WEAKEN THE INTER AMERICAN SYSTEM. BUT IF THERE WAS NO

RELUCTANT TO DO THIS BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE OCCASIONS IN FUTURE WIN THEY WOULD WANT TO KEEP A SUBJECT WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE AND THIS PRECEDENT WOULD BE USED AGAINST THEM. IT WOULD ALSO GRAVELY WEAKEN THE INTER AMERICAN SYSTEM. BUT IF THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY OF REJECTING A CALL FOR MANDATORY SANCTIONS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO THIS.

HENDERSON

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RECYCLUSO OF MISTHER THE GUYL WARRIES CONCEANED ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED AT 18 MESCHALP THAT WORE PATHON MERCHALS FIRM BE APPROVED. FORESTER TO BUT E CONFLICT PARESTORY ON ALL RIO TREATY SHOWNESS. DICT OF PORTER BE FIRTER IT AND THE CAMPFAIRED DECORDED AND UNITED THE WISHTALF SO CALCHES AND FAS THE MICH SALVING ACTION SELECTIONS WITH THE AMENIA OF LEGIT CHARLESTING FROM FEGSIVE, BUT IN CERTICIALS MOUND CERTAINLY PROPOSE SAROTIONS, THE EXTERT OF THESE MODE DE JUG 3. IF, HOMENER AN ARMED CLASH COCUMBED DEFORD THE MEETING, AMERITIAL

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