

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 221845Z APR 82  
 TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 520 OF 22 APRIL 1982  
 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AT THE UN

1. I GOT MY AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUE TO CALL A MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP AT THE UN THIS MORNING (22 APRIL) TO DISCUSS THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. THE MEMBERSHIP UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS AN AUSTRALIAN (AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LAST CHGM) INITIATIVE. THERE WAS A VERY HIGH TURN OUT AND THE MEETING GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASISE TO MY COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES THE DETERMINATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO STAND BY ITS PRINCIPLES AND ACHIEVE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 502. I ALSO THANKED THE MANY COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS WHO HAD ISSUED STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION AND IN CONDEMNATION OF THE ARGENTINE INVASION.

2. I STARTED THE MEETING GOING BY EMPHASISING OUR POSITION ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND RESISTANCE TO THE USE OF FORCE TO SETTLE TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. WHEN I SPELT OUT THE FACT THAT WE MEANT BUSINESS, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD TRY ALL DIPLOMATIC MEANS OF ACHIEVING AN HONOURABLE SOLUTION, THE RESPONSE WAS REALISTIC AND NOT

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. WHEN I SPEAK OF THE FACTS OF THE CASE  
BUSINESS, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD TRY ALL DIPLOMATIC MEANS OF ACHIEVING  
AN HONOURABLE SOLUTION, THE RESPONSE WAS REALISTIC AND NOT  
UNFAVOURABLE. NONE OF THOSE PRESENT ARGUED AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE  
THAT WE MIGHT NEED TO USE FORCE. THERE WAS HOWEVER SOME *CONCERN*  
GICERN-

THAT WE OUGHT TO EXHAUST ALL THE POSSIBILITIES WITHIN THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE WE TOOK SUCH STEPS. MY CYPRIOT COLLEAGUE  
INSISTED THAT WE SHOULD INFORM THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF ARGENTINA'S  
FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT SCR 502 BEFORE WE CONSIDERED UNILATERAL  
STEPS. APART FROM THIS AND OTHER LEGALISTIC POINTS MADE ABOUT  
OUR RIGHTS UNDER ARTICLE 51, THE ONLY DISQUIET VOICED WAS BY  
SOME OF THE CARIBBEANS WHO WERE WORRIED ABOUT ARGENTINA'S  
INVOCATION OF THE RIO TREATY. ST LUCIA THOUGHT THAT THE AMERICANS  
SHOULD TRY TO SHIFT THE DISCUSSION BACK TO THE OAS COUNCIL WHERE  
ALL THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED.

3. THIS WAS AN ENCOURAGING MEETING. I WAS NOT FACED WITH CALLS FOR  
UK WITHDRAWAL AS A PRELUDE TO NEGOTIATION. IT WAS CLEAR THAT WE  
ARE STILL PERCEIVED AS BEING MORALLY IN THE RIGHT.

PARSONS

NNNN