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SECRET

FM WASHINGTON 261959Z APR 82
TO FLASH F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1452 OF 26 APRIL 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK.

ADVANCE COPY
FLASH

FALKLANDS AND THE OAS.

1. WHEN I SAW HAIG TODAY HE WAS JUST OFF TO MAKE A SHORT SPEECH TO THE OAS MEETING. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT MANY PEOPLE HAD THE STOMACH FOR A VERY TOUGH RESOLUTION. I SAID, BASING MYSELF ON A WARNING TONY PARSONS HAD GIVEN ME LAST NIGHT, THAT A SOFT RESOLUTION CALLING UPON EVERYBODY TO AVOID THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE COULD BE DAMAGING IF THE U.S. VOTED FOR IT. WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE THAT PANAMA WOULD INTRODUCE IT INTO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A RESOLUTION SUPERCEDING 502. THIS WOULD TIE OUR HANDS FROM CONTINUING TO EXERT MILITARY PRESSURE UPON THE ARGENTINIANS TO WITHDRAW. HAIG SAID HE WAS FULLY COGNISANT OF ALL THESE DANGERS - I AM NOT ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT HE WAS - AND WOULD ABSTAIN RATHER THAN VOTE FOR ANYTHING THAT WOULD CAUSE US DIFFICULTY.

HENDERSON