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17

FALKLANDS SELECTIVE ADVANCES (37)

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SECRET

DESKBY UKMIS NEW YORK 120100Z
FM WASHINGTON 112350Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1706 OF 11 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS

1. HAIG HAS JUST SPOKEN TO ME AFTER A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. HE SAYS THE LATTER IS ANXIOUS TO HELP. HE HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ARGENTINIANS HAD MADE CONCESSIONS, INCLUDING SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT IT WAS THE BRITISH WHO WERE BEING DIFFICULT. HE HAD DERIVED THIS OF COURSE FROM BA PROPAGANDA.

2. HAIG SAID THAT HE HAD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT BY SAYING THAT ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS HE, HAIG, HAD BEEN AWARE OF CONSIDERABLE CONCESSIONS ON THE PART OF LONDON: THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANYTHING FROM ARGENTINA. HAIG SPOKE OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN THAT HE HAD DRAWN UP WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE ARGENTINIANS A GREAT DEAL.

3. HAIG THEN SAID, RATHER TO MY SURPRISE, THAT HE HOPED WE WERE

3. HAIG THEN SAID, RATHER TO MY SURPRISE, THAT HE HOPED WE WERE NOT GOING TO RUSH TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE THOUGHT THAT THE PEREZ DE CUELLAR TALKS, HOWEVER UNPRODUCTIVE, SHOULD BE ABLE TO RUN THEIR COURSE: AND THAT WHEN THEY COULD NO LONGER BE SUSTAINED IT SHOULD BE PEREZ DE CUELLAR WHO SHOULD ANNOUNCE THIS AND EXPLAIN WHERE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURE LAY, NAMELY WITH THE ARGENTINE.

4. I ASKED HAIG WHERE HE HAD GOT THE IDEA FROM THAT WE WERE INTENDING TO RUSH TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT THIS HAD COME FROM THE ARGENTINIANS WHO WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE INTENDING TO GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS EARLY AS FRIDAY.

5. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT BUT I WOULD CONSULT LONDON AND GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN. BUT MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT WE WERE NOT TRYING TO RUSH THINGS.

6. HAIG SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION WAS TO LET THINGS RUN THEIR COURSE IN THE PEREZ DE CUELLAR TALKS. QUOTE KEEP ON GOING THERE UNQUOTE WAS HAIG'S PARTICULAR PHRASE. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL TO CONCERT OUR ACTION IF IT DOES COME TO A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. EARLIER IN THE DAY HE HAD TOLD ME CATEGORICALLY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT WOULD CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE WITHOUT WITHDRAWAL.

HENDERSON

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