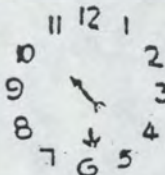


12 MAY 1982
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OO WASHINGTON
PP UKMIS NEW YORK
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FM FCO 120854Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 968 OF 12 MAY
INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS: GENERAL WALTERS' REMARKS

1. REUTERS REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON ON 10 MAY THAT GENERAL WALTERS TOLD A BRIEFING AT THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE THAT THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WAS 'A CONFLICT OF MACHISMOS'... HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE GONE ON TO SAY THAT 'BOTH PARTIES ARE VERY STICKY' AND TO REFER TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS AS 'A SILLY WAR AND A CONFLICT OF EGOS'.

2. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD POINT OUT TO HAIG ON THE NEXT SUITABLE OCCASION THAT SUCH STATEMENTS FROM A SENIOR MEMBER OF HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS BELIEVED TO HAVE 'COME OFF THE FENCE ON OUR SIDE' CAUSE WIDESPREAD CONFUSION AND IRRITATION HERE. IF IT IS PUT TO YOU THAT WALTERS' REMARKS WERE DESIGNED TO MAKE HIM MORE 'ACCEPTABLE AS AN INTERLOCUTOR IN ARGENTINA, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT SUGGESTING THAT BOTH SIDES

ARE TO BE TREATED AS EQUALLY RECALCITRANT IN THIS CRISIS IS CERTAINLY NOT THE WAY TO PERSUADE THE ARGENTINES THAT THEY HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR RESPONSES.

3. YOU MIGHT ADD THAT THESE REMARKS FROM WALTERS COME PARTICULARLY STRANGELY AFTER HAIG'S OWN COMMENTS TO YOU AS REPORTED IN YOUR TELNO 1686. SUCH REMARKS WILL HAVE SURELY MITIGATED AGAINST 'THE MAJOR EXERCISE OF PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA' TO WHICH HE REFERS AND ARE HARDLY COMPATIBLE WITH HIS ADVICE TO US TO KEEP UP FIRM MILITARY PRESSURE.

4. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU SAID TO HAIG ABOUT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTER OF 2 MAY TO THE LATIN AMERICAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT (PARAGRAPH 12 OF YOUR TELNO 1686): IT MIGHT NOW BE TIMELY FOR YOU TO ASK HAIG IF HE COULD NOT HAVE A WORD WITH

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VERNON WALTERS AND OTHERS TO AVOID FURTHER EMBARRASSING
PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THIS SORT.

PYM
NNNN
DIST: X
LIMITED
SAMD
EMERGENCY UNIT
NAD
NEWS DEPT
PLANNING STAFF
PS
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR GIFFARD
MR URE
LD GORDON LENNOX