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CONFIDENTIAL

UKMIS NEW YORK 101515Z JUN 82

TO F L A S H FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 973 OF 10 JUNE

INFO F L A S H BONN (FOR S OF S'S PARTY)

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

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ACTION COPY

MY TELNO 949:

FALKLANDS : SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INITIATIVE OF 5 JUNE

1. URQUHART GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME THIS MORNING (10 JUNE). HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF PEREZ DE CUELLAR. THE LATTER WAS THINKING OF BRIEFING CARDINAL CASAROLI (NOW IN NEW YORK) TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE POPE TO BRING PRESSURE ON GALTIERI TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INITIATIVE OF 5 JUNE. PEREZ DE CUELLAR DID NOT WANT TO DO THIS IF ACCEPTANCE BY GALTIERI WOULD STILL BE MET WITH REJECTION BY US.
2. I TOLD URQUHART THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. FIRST, PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S PROPOSALS FOR A TRUCE/UN PRESENCE/CEASFIRE WERE IMPRACTICABLE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE ISLANDS. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY WAS DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE COMMANDERS ON THE SPOT.
3. SECONDLY, HMG COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT CONTEMPLATE AT THIS STAGE A PACKAGE INVOLVING A PLANNED RUN DOWN OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE FALKLANDS TO BE REPLACED BY UN OR ANY OTHER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. THIS KIND OF THING MIGHT HAVE BEEN A STARTER UP TO 20 MAY, BUT IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION NOW.
4. THIRDLY, BY THE SAME TOKEN, HMG WOULD NOT AGREE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH A SHORT TIME LIMIT UNDER UN AUSPICES FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM 'TAKING INTO ACCOUNT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS' ETC.
5. I URGED URQUHART TO DISSUADE PEREZ DE CUELLAR FROM LAUNCHING AN INITIATIVE BY THE POPE. I SHALL SEE PEREZ DE CUELLAR MYSELF TODAY TO DRIVE THESE POINTS HOME.
6. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER TIME PERMITS, BUT IF IT DOES, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE POPE COULD BE BRIEFED FULLY ON OUR PRESENT POSITION BEFORE HE GETS TO BUENOS AIRES. OTHERWISE, WHETHER OR NOT PEREZ DE CUELLAR BRIEFS CASAROLI ABOUT HIS INITIATIVE, THE POPE MAY WELL COME UP WITH SOME IDEAS WHICH HE MIGHT HAVE SOLD TO GALTIERI AND WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO US.

PARSONS