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CONFIDENTIAL

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 102110Z JUNE 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 975 OF 10 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE HOLY SEE, WASHINGTON.

YOUR TEL NO 522: FALKLANDS: POPE'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA.

1. I SAW THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT 16.45Z TODAY (10 JUNE) AND REPEATED THE POINTS I HAD MADE TO URQUHART (MY TEL NO 973). PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THIS RESPONSE. WAS THERE ANY REVISION THAT I COULD PROPOSE THAT WOULD MAKE HIS INITIATIVE OF 5 JUNE ACCEPTABLE TO US? I SAID THAT THE ESSENTIAL POINT WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE UNCONDITIONAL ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL, THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHICH SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE MILITARY COMMANDERS ON THE SPOT. THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF OUR ACCEPTING AT THIS STAGE A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF THE KIND THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAD PUT FORWARD LAST WEEK-END.

2. I ASKED PEREZ DE CUELLAR WHETHER HE THOUGHT THAT CARDINAL CASAROLI WOULD TAKE AN INITIATIVE OF HIS OWN. PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT HE THOUGHT NOT. HE HAD MENTIONED TO CASAROLI YESTERDAY THAT HE MIGHT (MIGHT) WISH TO SEEK HIS HELP IF HE AND HIS TEAM COULD DEVISE SOME PROPOSAL THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES. HAVING HEARD MY REACTION, PEREZ DE CUELLAR WOULD NOW TELL CASAROLI THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY NEW IDEAS. HE WOULD NOT (NOT) TELL CASAROLI THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH ME.

3. PEREZ DE CUELLAR ASKED...

... IN THE MEANTIME, PEREZ DE CUELLAR WOULD NOW TELL CASAROLI THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY NEW IDEAS. HE WOULD NOT (NOT) TELL CASAROLI THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH ME.

3. PEREZ DE CUELLAR ASKED ME TO ASSURE YOU THAT HE WAS NOT JUST BEING BUSY. HE HAD TWO MOTIVES: FIRST: THE MANDATE GIVEN TO HIM BY SCR 505 REMAINED IN BEING AND HE THEREFORE FELT UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO SEIZE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT: SECONDLY, AS A LATIN AMERICAN, HE WAS VERY CONSCIOUS THAT MERE REPOSSESSION OF THE ISLANDS BY US WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE ARGENTINES WOULD NEVER GIVE UP THEIR CLAIM, UNLESS SOMEONE COULD DEVISE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHICH THEY COULD ACCEPT. THE FALKLANDS WOULD THEREFORE BECOME A PERMANENT SOURCE OF TENSION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. DE SOTO ADDED THAT, GIVEN THE RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS OF THE PRESENT REGIME IN BUENOS AIRES, THE POPE'S VISIT PROVIDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSUADING THE ARGENTINES TO ACCEPT SOMETHING SENSIBLE. I REPEATED THE POINTS I HAD ALREADY MADE. FINALLY, PEREZ DE CUELLAR CONFIRMED THAT IF WE COULD NOT ACCEPT HIS PROPOSALS OF 5 JUNE OR SOMETHING LIKE THEM, HE WOULD NOT PURSUE THE MATTER WITH CASAROLI.

4. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, I AM INCLINED TO THINK THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME NOT TO SEEK OUT CASAROLI. AS YOU SAY, HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER A FULL BRIEFING ON THE BRITISH POSITION. IF I WERE TO TALK TO HIM HERE (NOW THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR WILL NOT BE PURSUING HIM) THE END RESULT MIGHT BE THE ONE WHICH WE DO NOT WANT, NAMELY THAT HE WOULD START THINKING OF INITIATIVES WHICH THE POPE MIGHT TAKE DURING HIS VISIT.

PARSONS

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