

Argentina

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GRS 672

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FM FCO 111245Z OCT 82

TO PRIORITY SUVA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 203 OF 11 OCTOBER

INFO CANBERRA, WELLINGTON

MIPT: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO RATU MARA

BEGINS:

1. AS I AM SURE YOU KNOW, THE STAUNCH SUPPORT WHICH YOU AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH LEADERS HAVE GIVEN US SINCE THE ARGENTINE INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME AND TO MY COLLEAGUES, AND HAVE REMINDED US ALL OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES WHICH COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS HOLD IN COMMON. I WAS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO LEARN OF THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY YOUR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK. THEIR EXTENSIVE LOBBYING AND THE ENCOURAGING RESPONSE ACHIEVED AS WELL AS THEIR DECLARED INTENT TO VOTE AGAINST THE LATIN-AMERICAN RESOLUTION, EPITOMISE THE ROBUST SUPPORT WHICH FIJI AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES HAVE GIVEN US IN THE CRISIS AND I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU PERSONALLY.

2. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ANY SUPPORT THAT YOU AND YOUR COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES CAN GIVE US IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO EXPLAIN OUR THINKING TO YOU BEFORE YOU COME TO CHAIR THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION. BRITAIN IS NOT, OF COURSE, REPRESENTED AT THESE MEETINGS, BUT IF THE MATTER ARISES, I SHOULD LIKE OUR VIEWS, AND THE STRENGTH WITH WHICH WE HOLD THEM, TO BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD. I SHOULD IN ANY CASE BE HAPPY FOR YOU TO PASS COPIES OF THIS MESSAGE TO THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IF YOU SEE FIT, SO THAT THEY HAVE ACCESS TO AN EXPLANATION OF OUR POSITION AT THE MEETING AND WHEN, LATER, THEY ARE CONSIDERING THEIR OWN POSITION AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

3. YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THAT ARGENTINA IS CURRENTLY SEEKING SUPPORT FOR A DRAFT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING ON US TO

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ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH HER ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS. AS I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, THE UK WILL OPPOSE ANY OTHER RESOLUTION. WE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO RESUME - AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED - THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARGENTINA HERSELF BROKE OFF WITH NO WARNING EARLIER THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO INVADE. OUR LOSSES WERE CONSIDERABLE DESPITE OUR SUCCESSES. THE INVASION WAS A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE FOR THE ISLANDERS. THEY NOW HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE TERRIBLE AFTERMATH OF WAR, INCLUDING UNEXPLODED MINES, SCATTERED INDISCRIMINATELY THROUGHOUT THE ISLANDS. THE DAMAGE WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME, EFFORT AND MONEY TO REPAIR. TIME WILL ALSO BE NEEDED TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TO RECOVER AND THINK ABOUT THEIR FUTURE BEFORE EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. WHAT IS MORE, DESPITE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT HOSTILITIES HAVE CEASED DE FACTO, THEY HAVE STILL FAILED TO ISSUE AN UNAMBIGUOUS DECLARATION THAT HOSTILITIES WILL NOT BE RESUMED. OUR EFFORTS TO END THE CONFLICT AND START THE PROCESS OF GETTING RELATIONS BACK TO NORMAL HAVE MET WITH LITTLE OR NO UNDERSTANDING OR COOPERATION. ARGENTINA APPEARS TO SEE NEGOTIATION SOLELY AS A ROUTE TOWARDS THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY.

4. IF THERE IS ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT AT YOUR MEETING IN SUVA, I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WOULD UNDERLINE THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER WHICH ARGENTINA CALLED INTO QUESTION BY HER INVASION, PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE ALWAYS RECEIVED THE COMMONWEALTH'S FIRM SUPPORT. I HOPE IN PARTICULAR THAT YOU WILL ALL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO BE GIVEN FULL WEIGHT IN THE CASE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS, WHO ARE AS FULLY ENTITLED TO IT AS ALL OTHER PEOPLES AND WHOSE RIGHTS IN THIS, AS IN MANY OTHER RESPECTS, ARGENTINA SEEKS TO DENY. I WOULD ALSO ASK THAT YOU AND THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING SHOULD REFRAIN - AS MANY OF THEM DID IN 1976 - FROM SUPPORTING ANY RESOLUTION AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH CALLS ON US TO NEGOTIATE. ALTHOUGH THE TIMING IS NOT YET CLEAR, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY BE DISCUSSING THE FALKLANDS SOME TIME IN MID-NOVEMBER.

PYM

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