

Confidential

GRS 180

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FM WASHINGTON  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1911  
OF 182346Z JULY 86

SECRETARY OF STATE'S DISCUSSION WITH SHULTZ: ARMS FOR ARGENTINA  
1. AT THE END OF HIS DISCUSSION TODAY WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON EAST/WEST, SHULTZ GAVE THE SECRETARY OF STATE A WRITTEN MESSAGE ON ARGENTINA (TEXT WITH THE PRIVATE SECRETARY) AND ADDED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS. THE US REMAINED INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING GREATER CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY. THAT SHOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING ANY THREAT TO THE FALKLANDS. THEY CONTINUED TO REGARD ALFONSIN AS A GOOD MAN. THEY REALISED THAT WE HAD A PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE ARGENTINE WISH TO ACQUIRE MORE A4 AIRCRAFT. THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR PART WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. AMONG OTHER THINGS THE RUSSIANS WERE KEEN TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT. SHULTZ HOPED THAT WE COULD TAKE THIS POINT INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR THINKING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT WE REMAINED WORRIED ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH ARGENTINA WAS APPROACHING THE FALKLANDS PROBLEM. SHULTZ AGREED THAT ON FISHERIES THE ARGENTINES WERE CHALLENGING OUR SOVEREIGNTY. BUT HE ADDED THAT THE AMERICANS WERE DISTURBED BY WHAT THEY SAW AS INCREASING SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE REGION.

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