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DESKBY FCO 020830Z

DESKBY BA AND PORT STANLEY FIRST CONTACT

FROM U K MISSION NEW YORK 020510Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 366 OF 1 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL) WASHINGTON.

MY FOUR IPTS; FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. WITHOUT WISHING TO APPEAR SELF-CONGRATULATORY, I THINK THAT WE GOT AS MUCH OUT OF THE COUNCIL IN ONE DAY AS WE COULD HAVE DONE. WE NOW HAVE TWO APPEALS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (THE SECOND, WHICH IS QUOTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN MY TELNO 364 WAS ISSUED AT THE AIRPORT JUST BEFORE HE LEFT FOR ROME), PLUS A FIRM PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. THE SYMPATHY OF THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL IS UNDOUBTEDLY WITH US AND THE ARGENTINES ARE ON THE WRONG FOOT.
2. ROCA'S (ARGENTINA) STATEMENT WORRIED ME. IT CONTAINED A CLEAR ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THE USE OF FORCE AND HE IGNORED MY APPEAL TO JOIN ME IN A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S CALL FOR RESTRAINT ETC. BRITISH PRESS CORRESPONDENTS TO WHOM I GAVE INTERVIEWS AFTER THE DEBATE SHARED MY APPREHENSIONS, AS DID OTHER DELEGATIONS IN THE COUNCIL.
3. IF THE ARGENTINES INVADE, I WOULD LIKE DISCRETION TO CALL THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY AND TO WORK FOR A RESOLUTION, IF POSSIBLE TO BE ADOPTED THE SAME DAY, CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ARGENTINE FORCES. I WOULD INCLUDE RITUAL CALLS FOR RESPECT FOR CHARTER PRINCIPLES, RESUMPTION OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS ETC, AND WOULD GET AS MUCH AS THE TRAFFIC WOULD BEAR IN TERMS OF DEPLORING, CONDEMNING AND SO ON.
4. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD GIVE ME MAXIMUM LATITUDE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE STRENGTH OF BRITISH PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY OPINION. I AM ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE CURRENT SYMPATHY FOR US IN THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER I MIGHT HAVE TO WATER DOWN A DRAFT TO SOME EXTENT IN ORDER TO SECURE AT LEAST THE NINE VOTES WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A POSITIVE RESULT OR TO FORCE THE RUSSIANS TO VETO.

PARSONS

STANDARD
S AM D
CABINET OFFICE

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