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DESKBY 051600Z

FM BUENOS AIRES 05/1330Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 63 OF 05 MARCH 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

INFO SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 62 : FALKLANDS TALKS

1. MY INTERVIEW WITH ENRIQUE ROS YESTERDAY EVENING TURNED INTO AN EXCHANGE OF COMMISERATIONS. HE WAS AT PAINS TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO US THAT HE HAD FIRST LEARNT OF CONTENTS OF MY TELEGRAMS 57 AND 58 FROM THE PRESS, THAT HE ACCEPTED THAT THE FALSE IMPRESSION OF MENACE IN THE MFA STATEMENT'S LAST PARAGRAPH WAS QUOTE UNHAPPY UNQUOTE AND THAT THE MINISTRY ACCEPTED NO (REPEAT NO) RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REMARKS ASCRIBED TO IT UNATTRIBUTABLY (IE PARA 2 OF MY TELNO 57). HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT MR LUCE HAD FELT OBLIGED TO SAY IN THE HOUSE AND WAS NOT INCLINED TO COMPLAIN IF COUNCILLORS SHOULD LET SLIP DETAILS OF THE WORKING PAPER OR EVEN OF THE BOUT DE PAPIER PROPOSALS (THOUGH HERE HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE HOPED A DISTINCTION WOULD BE DRAWN, AS IN THE BOUT DE PAPIER, BETWEEN WHAT WAS PROPOSAL AND THE EARLIER PART WHICH WAS SIMPLY A RESTATEMENT FOR THE RECORD).

2. I, WHILE COMMISERATING WITH HIS DIFFICULTIES, DROVE HOME THE POINT THAT THE PRICE OF THESE MISHAPS WAS LIKELY TO BE EVEN LESS CAPACITY FOR SPEEDY RESPONSE BY OUR SIDE. COUNCILLORS MIGHT WELL FIND PAUSE FOR EMOTIONS TO COOL BETTER THAN THE RISK OF A REJECTION IF DECISIONS WERE TAKEN NOW (I HAD STANLEY TELEGRAM NO 29 IN MIND). IF MR LUCE COULD HAVE PERHAPS BEEN IN A POSITION TO CLEAR WHAT WAS AGREED IN NEW YORK WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE FCO IT WAS NOW MORE LIKELY THAT OTHER CABINET MEMBERS WOULD EXPECT TO BE CONSULTED AND THAT TOOK TIME, ETC. THERE WAS NO WAY IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS WITH A PISTOL AT THE HEAD COULD BE AUTHORISED AND SOMEHOW THE PISTOL WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED. I SUGGESTED SOME DISCLAMATORY AND EMOLLIENT STATEMENT BY COSTA MENDEZ OR THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OF LAYING THE SPECTRES RAISED.

3. WE NEED EVERY WEAPON TO HAND IN RESISTING ARGENTINE PRESSURES FOR UNDUE HASTE. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE MFA'S OBVIOUS EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE RECENT OUTBURSTS SHOULD BE USED IN THIS WAY AND THAT I SHOULD KEEP UP THE PRESSURE WITH COSTA MENDEZ WHOM I EXPECT TO SEE THIS EVENING OR TOMORROW MORNING.

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4. AS AGREED WITH HME WASHINGTON BY TELEPHONE, I SHALL ALSO ACT TODAY WITH US AMBASSADOR HERE ON YOUR TELNO 415 TO WASHINGTON.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

WILLIAMS

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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