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FALKLAND ISLANDS : ARGENTINIAN VIEWS ON SOVEREIGNTY

1. TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES A REPORT, DATED LINED BUENOS AIRES, ABOUT THE ARGENTINIAN POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY. THIS QUOTES GUSTAVO FIGUEROA (DESCRIBED AS A HIGH OFFICIAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A KEY FIGURE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS) AS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ARGENTINA HAD DROPPED ITS INSISTENCE THAT ITS SOVEREIGNTY BE RECOGNISED BEFORE WITHDRAWAL OF ITS TROOPS AND ADMINISTRATORS FROM THE ISLANDS. BUT FIGUEROA ALSO SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS AFTER WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE STRUCTURED TO LEAD EVENTUALLY TO ARGENTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

2. FIGUEROA IS QUOTED AS SAYING IN A RADIO INTERVIEW: "WE WANT TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM THROUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OR WHOEVER. TO FACILITATE THAT, WE HAVE SAID: SIRS, WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO GIVE US SOVEREIGNTY NOW". IN RETURN HOWEVER, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ARGENTINA WANTED THE NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ISLANDS TO INCLUDE "PRECAUTIONS" SO THAT THEY "INEXORABLY LEAD TO RECOGNITION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY" ONE SUCH "PRECAUTION" WOULD BE TO PUT THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHERE ARGENTINA WOULD RELY ON THE VOTES OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES WHICH HAD SUPPORTED ITS CLAIM?

3. ANOTHER OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING : "WE DECIDED IT WAS A BRITISH PROBLEM, AND NOT OURS. A COUNTRY DOES NOT RECOGNISE ITS OWN SOVEREIGNTY. WE ACCEPT THAT THE ISLANDS CANNOT GO FROM A COLONIAL BRITISH ADMINISTRATION TO AN ARGENTINIAN ONE IN A DAY. WHAT WE WANT IS TO FIND A WAY IN WHICH ARGENTINA CAN EVENTUALLY PERFORM ITS SOVEREIGNTY".

HENDERSON

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