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FALKLANDS: MEETING OF AIR CHIEFS OF THE AMERICAS.

1. AIR ATTACHE LEARNED TODAY THAT THERE IS TO BE A MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES FROM 12-17 APRIL OF THE AIR CHIEFS OF THE AMERICAS. AT PRESENT, GENERAL ALLEN U S AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND, THOUGH HE HIMSELF IS NONE TOO KEEN TO DO SO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CANADIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF HAS ALREADY CRIED OFF.

2. MINISTER HAS RAISED THIS WITH EAGLEBURGER, POINTING OUT THAT GENERAL ALLEN'S ATTENDANCE AT THIS STAGE WOULD SEND ENTIRELY THE WRONG SIGNAL TO THE ARGENTINE JUNTA. EAGLEBURGER WAS ALREADY AWARE OF THIS QUESTION AND SAID IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED YESTERDAY WITH HAIG. THE CONCLUSION HAIG HAD COME TO WAS THAT, AS A GENERAL RULE, IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS INVOLVING THE ARGENTINE BUT THAT THEY SHOULD AVOID BILATERAL MEETINGS AT PRESENT. THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY WOULD THE ARGENTINIANS BE BOUND TO TRY TO USE THIS MEETING TO GENERATE SOME KIND OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE ACTION THEY HAD TAKEN IN THE FALKLANDS, BUT ALSO THE START OF THE MEETING WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE ROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. HE SAID THAT GENERAL ALLEN'S PRESENCE AT SUCH A MEETING AT THAT POINT WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN LONDON, AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SUGGEST A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING. EAGLEBURGER IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE POINT AND SAID HE WOULD TRY TO SPEAK AGAIN TO HAIG ABOUT IT BEFORE HE LEFT TODAY FOR LONDON. YOU MAY WISH TO RAISE THIS YOURSELF WITH HAIG.

HENDERSON

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