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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1185 OF 7 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK (PERSONAL FOR ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE)

MY TELNO 1174: FALKLANDS

32 1. WE HAVE HAD A WORD WITH EAGLEBURGER'S DEPUTY, GOMPERT, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HAIG TO LONDON.

2. GOMPERT SAID THAT FOLLOWING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ME, HAIG WAS FULLY SEIZED OF THE DANGERS OF APPEARING TO ADOPT A STANCE OF NEUTRALITY BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINA. HE DID NOT SYMPATHIZE WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN BUREAU. HE WAS AWARE THAT, IF THINGS TURNED OUT BADLY ON THIS MATTER, THE GOVERNMENT IN LONDON MIGHT FALL AND THAT ANY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO GIVE THE UNITED STATES THE SUPPORT IT HAD BEEN GETTING ON ALLIANCE AND EAST/WEST MATTERS.

3. HE WAS RECOMMENDING THAT HAIG SHOULD NOT COME WITH DEFINITE PROPOSALS AT THIS STAGE. HAIG WOULD BE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT SORT OF MESSAGE HE COULD TAKE TO BUENOS AIRES. THIS MUST OBVIOUSLY ENTAIL ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL.

4. GOMPERT REALISED THAT THE ONLY MESSAGE THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING AWAY FROM LONDON WAS ONE OF DETERMINATION, THOUGH THEY HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE A BIT MORE THAN THAT TO SAY TO THE ARGENTINIANS. THE OBJECT WOULD BE TO SEE IF, HAVING TALKED TO US AND THE ARGENTINIANS, THEY COULD COME UP WITH ANY PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD STAND A CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED.

5. WE REFERRED TO THE UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION LEFT BY SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN EG CATTO YESTERDAY. GOMPERT STRONGLY AGREED. HE WAS BEING SENT WITH THE SECRETARY BY EAGLEBURGER TO ENSURE THAT IN THE ADVICE TO HAIG, THE WIDER CONSIDERATIONS PREVAILED - NOT, HE BELIEVED, THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD NEED MUCH CONVINCING OF THIS.

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6 GOMPERT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE THE ARGENTINIANS OFF THE ISLANDS, THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE AHEAD. THE OTHER LATIN AMERICANS WOULD FEEL DRIVEN TO SIDE FIRMLY WITH THE ARGENTINIANS; WHILE TROOP LANDINGS AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEFENCE OF THE ISLANDS WOULD POSE SOME DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR US.

7. WE SAID THAT WE WERE GETTING SOMEWHAT FED UP WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT SOME WAY SHOULD BE FOUND TO PRESERVE GENERAL GALTIERI. GOMPERT AGREED THAT THIS WAS BESIDE THE POINT. HAIG WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH ARGENTINA HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN BUT THE SOVIET UNION.

HENDERSON

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