

ENCL No.
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CWG087 08/1623 098B3632

FOR CWG

ROUTINE 080120Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
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SIC A3A/A2N/19F

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FM WASHINGTON 080120Z APR 82
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1186 OF 7 APRIL

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK BIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 1123: FALKLANDS

1. CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI (CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE BEFORE CONGRESS WENT INTO RECESS. AFTER REFERRING TO THE UK AS QUOTE A STAUNCH AND TRADITIONAL ALLY UNQUOTE AND A BULWARK OF NATO, THE STATEMENT CONTINUES:

THERE IS, AN OVERRIDING PRINCIPLE AT STAKE HERE, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. IT INVOLVES THE FORCEABLE UNPROVOKED INVASION OF THE TERRITORY OF ONE NATION BY THE ARMED FORCES OF ANOTHER. IT INVOLVES A SERIOUS MATTER OF PRECEDENT: IF THE UNITED STATES OR THE WORLD COMMUNITY CONDONES THE FORCEABLE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY - THE BOUNDARIES OF WHICH MAY, AND I STRESS THE WORD MAY, BE BASED ON HISTORICAL INJUSTICE - THERE IS NO TELLING WHERE THIS PROCESS MAY LEAD.

IF WE WISH TO MAINTAIN SOME SEMBLANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ACQUIESCE IN THE BLATANT INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF ONE STATE BY ANOTHER - ON THE BASIS OF A HISTORICAL CLAIM.

IN ONE RESPECT AT LEAST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS - MALVINAS CRISIS, IS VIRTUALLY UNIQUE IN TERMS OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY I.E. SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE ARE NOT CONFRONTING HERE A LOCAL INSURRECTION WHICH IS BEING ASSISTED BY OUTSIDE FORCES. THERE ARE NO OPPRESSED ARGENTINIANS MINORITIES ON THIS ISLAND CALLING FOR QUOTE LIBERATION UNQUOTE AND A CHANGE OF THE STATUS QUO. INSTEAD WE ARE TALKING ABOUT NAKED AGGRESSION BY THE ARMED FORCES OF ONE COUNTRY OVER THE UNWILLING INHABITANTS OF ANOTHER. THERE IS NO CONCEIVABLE ISSUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AT STAKE IN THIS REGION.

MR SPEAKER, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT - AND SHOULD NOT - INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS DISPUTE. THE QUESTION OF SOVERIGNTY OF THESE ISLANDS IS BEYOND THE PURVIEW OF OUR COMPETENCE.

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WE FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THIS DISPUTE MAY BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY AND OUR ONLY ROLE, IF WE HAVE A ROLE, IS TO OFFER OUR GOOD OFFICES FOR MEDIATION, AS PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS JUST ANNOUNCED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DO.

OUR GOVERNMENT AND I BELIEVE THE MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESS SUPPORT THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 3 - BY A VOTE OF 10 TO 1. IT IS A SHORT AND SIMPLE RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR A QUOTE DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION UNQUOTE TO DIFFERENCES, BUT IT ALSO EMBODIES THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER, WHICH WE WILL IGNORE AT OUR PERIL.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE TELL US THAT IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS IN MASSACHUSETTS, KENNEDY HAS SUPPORTED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S HOPE OF RESOLVING THE ISSUE PEACEFULLY IF POSSIBLE BUT HAS GONE ON TO ENDORSE THE USE OF FORCE BY BRITAIN IF THIS SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY TO RESTORE THE STATUS QUO ANTE.

HENDERSON
BT

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