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TO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 436 OF 9 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, EC POSTS, CANBERRA, OTTAWA, HELSINKI, REYKJAVIK, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, ANKARA, TOKYO

FALKLANDS AT THE UNITED NATIONS: REPLY TO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER OF 20 JULY

1. MINISTERS HAVE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD REPLY TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S LETTER OF 20 JULY IN THE TERMS OF MIFT. THEY HAVE ALSO AGREED THAT, TO FORESTALL ANOTHER ROUND OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE BEFORE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WRITES HIS REPORT FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OUR REPLY SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED TO HIM BEFORE MID-SEPTEMBER. WE ARE CONTENT TO LEAVE THE PRECISE TIMING TO YOU.
2. AS REGARDS POSSIBLE PUBLICATION, SUCH EXCHANGES SHOULD OF COURSE PROPERLY REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PUBLISHES HIS REPORT. ALTHOUGH THE ARGENTINES HAVE MADE THEIR OWN REPLY PUBLIC IN BUENOS AIRES, WE DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD TAKE ANY SUCH INITIATIVE WITH OURS. WE PROPOSE THAT, WHEN YOU HAND THE LETTER TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE WOULD NOT OBJECT IF HE CHOSE TO PUBLISH OUR REPLY IN FULL, AND WOULD CERTAINLY WISH HIM TO DO SO IF HE INTENDS TO PUBLISH THE ARGENTINE REPLY.
3. COPY ADDRESSEES SHOULD FOR THE TIME BEING TREAT THE TEXT IN MIFT AS BEING STRICTLY FOR THEIR BACKGROUND INFORMATION, LATER TO BECOME A QUARRY OF POINTS TO BE MADE LOCALLY AS THE DEBATE

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ON THE FALKLANDS IN THE UNGA APPROACHES.

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TO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 437 OF 9 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, EC POSTS, CANBERRA, OTTAWA, HELSINKI, REYKJAVIK, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, ANKARA, TOKYO

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MIPT: FALKLANDS AT THE UNITED NATIONS: REPLY TO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER OF 20 JULY

FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

BEGINS

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1. I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 20 JULY SEEKING THE VIEWS OF MY GOVERNMENT ON THE PROBLEM OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IN ORDER TO ASSIST YOU IN THE PREPARATION OF A REPORT TO THE 38TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, I WISH TO STATE THE FOLLOWING.

2. ARGENTINA'S INVASION IN 1982, ITS RESORT TO FORCE IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER, IS NOT AN EVENT WHICH HAS FADED INTO HISTORY. THAT ACT OF AGGRESSION HAS CONSEQUENCES WHICH MUST BE RECOGNISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS BY THE PRESENT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR SUCCESSORS. BY COMPELLING US, IN EXERCISE OF THE INHERENT RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE RECOGNISED IN ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER, TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION TO DEFEND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THEIR PEOPLE, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CAUSED A TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE ON BOTH SIDES. THEY ALSO CAUSED WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION ON THE ISLANDS, OF WHICH THE EFFECTS STILL REMAIN, DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS BY THE ISLANDERS AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROGRAMME FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE ISLANDS, AND FOR THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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3. MOREOVER, IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY BORNE IN MIND THAT ARGENTINA RESORTED TO FORCE WHILE A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION ABOUT THE MATTERS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN US WAS UNDER WAY. THE INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TOOK PLACE ONLY ONE MONTH AFTER A ROUND OF TALKS WHICH WAS CHARACTERISED IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS 'CORDIAL AND POSITIVE'. THESE FACTS HAVE INEVITABLY DAMAGED ARGENTINE CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD AND CAST DOUBT ON ARGENTINA'S GOOD FAITH IN CALLING FOR A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS.
4. THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES SET GREAT STORE BY THEIR 'EXPRESSED INTENTION', REFLECTED IN THE PREAMBLE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 37/9, NOT TO RENEW HOSTILITIES. THEY HAVE ALSO PROFESSED THEIR COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MATTERS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN US. THIS IS CYNICAL: THE EVENTS OF 1982 DEMONSTRATED ALL TOO VIVIDLY THAT ARGENTINE PROTESTATIONS OF GOOD INTENT NEED TO BE REGARDED AT THE LEAST WITH CAUTION. EVEN NOW, DESPITE THEIR PROFESSIONS OF PEACEFUL INTENT, THE ARGENTINE ATTITUDE, AS REFLECTED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE INCURSION ON 5 AUGUST BY A MILITARY AIRCRAFT INTO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PROTECTION ZONE, REMAINS MENACING.
5. THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS THE INHERENT RIGHT AND INDEED THE DUTY TO DEFEND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS PEOPLE AGAINST ANY RENEWED ATTACK.
6. WE HAVE THEREFORE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT A NEW AIRFIELD IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CAPABLE OF ACCEPTING WIDE-BODIED JETS, WHICH WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO SECURE THE DEFENCE OF THE ISLANDS THE EVENT OF FURTHER AGGRESSION. TALK OF THIS AIRFIELD AS A 'NATO BASE' IS MANIFEST NONSENSE. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRFIELD IS ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS' COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY LORD SHACKLETON IN 1976 AS WELL AS IN 1982.
7. YOUR EXCELLENCY EXPRESSES THE CONVICTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN EARLY INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS NO SIGN THAT FOR ARGENTINA THIS WOULD MEAN ANYTHING OTHER THAN DISCUSSION OF THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AGAINST

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THE MANIFEST WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND OF THE OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES ALREADY DESCRIBED, MY GOVERNMENT CONSIDER THAT IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO CALL ON US TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS, STILL LESS TO SUGGEST AN EARLY INITIATION OF THEM. THIS WAS OUR VIEW OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 37/9, AND NOTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE HAS GIVEN GROUNDS FOR CHANGING IT.

8. DESPITE HAVING BEEN THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION IN 1982, AND IN THE FACE OF THE CONTINUING HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AND SUPPORTED SEVERAL INITIATIVES AIMED AT REDUCING TENSION AND AT RESTORING THE MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. MY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE IMF PROGRAMME AIMED AT RESCUING ARGENTINA FROM ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. BUT EVEN IN THIS PROCESS, THE ARGENTINES HAVE UNFORTUNATELY BEEN RELUCTANT TO MEET OBLIGATIONS WHICH THEY HAD KNOWINGLY ACCEPTED OR TO CARRY OUT UNDERTAKINGS WHICH THEY VOLUNTARILY ENTERED INTO.

9. THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA ARE APPROACHING THE DATE OF ELECTIONS WHICH SHOULD GIVE THEM A FREELY-ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE MOVES TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA AND HOPES THAT THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WILL, OVER A LASTING PERIOD, LIVE UNDER DEMOCRATIC RULE AND ENJOY THE FULL HUMAN RIGHTS TO WHICH ALL PEOPLES ARE ENTITLED. EVEN SO, A NEW GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA WILL INHERIT THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS PREDECESSORS' DECISIONS. SO WE MUST LOOK TO ARGENTINA TO RESPOND TO OUR INITIATIVES AND TO DEMONSTRATE CONVINCINGLY THAT IT IS TURNING ITS BACK ON AGGRESSION AND RENOUNCING THE USE OF FORCE. ARGENTINA MUST ALSO RECOGNISE THE PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES OF ITS AGGRESSION IN 1982 AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS' RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER A GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING. THIS IS THE WAY FORWARD, RATHER THAN A POSTURE OF STERILE CONFRONTATION MARKED BY EVASION OF CLEAR UNDERTAKINGS, AND BY HYPOCRITICAL CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

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