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Se refiere a:

O2MAY82 2230Z – UKE Washington a FCO. Transcripción de la conferencia de prensa de PYM en Washington.

(PREM 19/624) (desclasificado DIC 2012)

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GR 4,508

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 030508Z

FM WASHINGTON 022230Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1568 OF 2 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

PRIORITY BOGOTA BRASILIA BRIDGETOWN RIO DE JANEIRO GUATEMALA CITY

LA PAZ LIMA QUITO MONTEVIDEO PANAMA CITY PORT AU PRINCE PORT OF SPAIN

CARACAS SAN JOSE SANTIAGO MEXICO CITY ANKARA ATHENS BRUSSELS BONN

COPENHAGEN LISBON LUXEMBOURG DUBLIN PARIS ROME REYKJAVIK THE HAGUE

UKDEL NATO UKREP BRUSSELS MOSCOW CANBERRA OTTAWA (FOR DUTY OFFICER)

WELLINGTON OSLO UKMIS GENEVA

ROUTINE PRAGUE BUDAPEST BUCHAREST EAST BERLIN BELGRADE SOFIA WARSAW

PEKING HELSINKI HOLYSEE BOSTON CLEVELAND DETROIT LOS ANGELES SEATTLE

ATLANTA CHICAGO DALLAS HOUSTON SAN FRANCISCO

FALKLANDS: PRESS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY OF STATE IN WASHINGTON

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON AT THIS EMBASSY.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

THERE IS I KNOW A VERY GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. BUT I HAVE NO FURTHER NEWS TO REPORT TO YOU OF ANY EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE TODAY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HERE THAT YOU CAN COUNT UPON THE TRUTH AND VALIDITY OF ANY COMMUNIQUE THAT WE ISSUE FROM THE DEFENCE MINISTRY IN LONDON. YOU WILL KNOW THAT AFTER THE RETAKING OF SOUTH GEORGIA THERE WAS A VERY GREAT DEAL OF MISINFORMATION THAT CAME OUT OF BUENOS AIRES ABOUT THAT EVENT WHICH WASN'T TRUE, AND THE SAME OCCURRED YESTERDAY SO I JUST WISH TO GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE AT THE OUTSET THAT WE WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED.

LAST WEEK I CAME HERE TO SEE MR. HAIG IN HIS ROLE AS A MEDIATOR. TODAY I HAVE COME BACK TO CONSULT HIM AS AN ALLY. THE BRITISH PEOPLE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR COMING DOWN IN THEIR SUPPORT. WE NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD COME DOWN IN SUPPORT OF THE VICTIM AND AGAINST THE AGGRESSOR. AFTER ALL, OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE THE SAME DEMOCRATIC IDEALS.

MR. HAIG AND I HAVE BEEN TAKING STOCK OF THE SITUATION TODAY AND HOW WE CAN SECURE THE CARRYING OUT OF RESOLUTION 502 AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES FROM THE ISLAND WHICH OF COURSE IS A PRECONDITION OF EVERYTHING. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MILITARY SITUATION, WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES WHICH ARE BEING APPLIED TO ARGENTINA AND WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING WHAT FURTHER DIPLOMATIC STEPS MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATED. I WOULD SAY THAT THE LONG PHASE OF MR. HAIG'S MISSION ENDED WITH THE REJECTION OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSALS BY THE ARGENTINES A FEW DAYS AGO. BUT THAT DOES NOT END THE SEARCH FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION. THE PRESSURES THAT WE HAVE BEEN APPLYING ON THE ARGENTINES FROM THE OUTSET, - ECONOMIC, DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY - GO HAND IN HAND WITH THE CONTINUING SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT. SO WHILE THOSE PRESSURES BUILD UP THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN.

/NOW I

NOW I WOULD JUST LIKE TO BRING YOUR MINDS TO THE FACTS ABOUT WHAT THIS ISSUE IS ALL ABOUT. AS I WAS SAYING EARLIER, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN SHARE THE SAME IDEALS, IT'S ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE, ITS ABOUT DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WANT. THE UNITED STATES AND BRITIAN HAVE A LONG HISTORY IN DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO CHOOSE BY DEMOCRATIC MEANS. AS WE KNOW, THERE IS A DIFFERENT-SYSTEM IN ARGENTINA. THEY HAVE TRIED TO IMPOSE - INDEED THEY HAVE FOR THE MOMENT IMPOSED - BY FORCE A RULE IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THAT DENIES THE PEOPLE THEIR CHOICE FOR WHAT THEY WANT, AND THAT IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT. WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN MANY MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN HISTORY, AS HAS THE UNITED STATES, IN DEFENCE OF THAT FREEDOM. ITS A WORLD PROBLEM, NOT JUST A BRITISH PROBLEM, IT'S VITAL THAT WE PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, THE RIGHTS OF PARLIAMENTS TO RUN THEIR COUNTRIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE. AND THAT IS WHY THIS ISSUE IS NOT JUST A MINOR MATTER AFFECTING A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE DOWN ON AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, IT'S AN ISSUE THAT AFFECTS COUNTRIES IN EVERY CONTINENT ALL OVER THE WORLD. FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS NOW THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT OF RUNNING THEIR COUNTRY AS THEY WANT: THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TROOPS OVER-RUNNING THAT COUNTRY, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER EXAMPLES. AND IF WE WERE TO ALLOW THIS ISSUE NOT TO BE CORRECTED, THIS WRONG, THIS INVASION, THIS AGGRESSIVE ACTION NOT TO BE CORRECTED, THEN THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER COUNTRIES ALL ROUND THE WORLD WHO WOULD FEEL EVEN MORE FEARFUL THAN THEY DO TODAY. AND THIS IS WHY THE ISSUE IN FACT IS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND THE WAY WE RUN OUR AFFAIRS. EVERYBODY WANTED THIS TO BE DONE PEACEFULLY, I AM SURE IT IS THOSE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, THAT BASIC PHILOSOPHY AND THOSE COMMON IDEALS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAT DECIDED THE UNITED STATES TO COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE. AND THAT IS WHAT I WANTED TO SAY BY WAY OF AN OPENING STATEMENT.

NEED FOR WITHDRAWAL

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT THERE COULD BE ANY WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE TROOPS AND RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS AS LONG AS THE PRESENT JUNTA REMAINS IN ARGENTINA?

A. YES OF COURSE, THEY BEGAN THE AGGRESSIVE ACTION, THEY INVADED THE ISLANDS, AND DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS WHEN THEY WERE UNDER A MANDATORY RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW THOSE FORCES THEY HAVE REINFORCED THEM. THEY HAVE NOW GOT SOME THOUSANDS ON THAT ISLAND, THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE THERE AND THEY WILL HAVE TO GO FROM THERE. THEY STARTED THIS INVASION AND OF COURSE WE WANT THEM TO GO BACK, AS A RESULT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IF WE CAN, AS A RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS, IF WE CAN. BUT IF NOT, THEN I AM AFRAID THEY WILL HAVE TO GO BACK BY FORCE. BUT WE MUST HOPE THAT SENSE WILL PREVAIL.

SHOPPING LIST?

Q. BALTIMORE SUN.

COULD YOU TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE ASKED FROM THE UNITED STATES IN THE WAY OF MATERIEL SUPPORT?

A. I HAVE NOT COME HERE WITH A SHOPPING LIST. THEY MADE CLEAR IN THEIR STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD GIVE US MATERIEL SUPPORT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT RESPECTS THE BASIS UPON WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAVE COME DOWN TO HELP US. BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS, LOGISTIC WAYS, OTHER WAYS IN WHICH THEY ARE ABLE TO HELP US. I AM GOING TO SEE MR. WEINBERGER LATER ON THIS AFTERNOON BUT I HAVE NOT COME WITH ANY LIST, I WISH TO MAKE THAT QUITE CLEAR, I HAVE COME TO REVIEW THE SITUATION WHICH IS QUITE DIFFERENT TO WHAT IT WAS LAST WEEK BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS COME DOWN IN SUPPORT OF BRITAIN.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE ANY REQUEST AT ALL FROM THE UNITED STATES SO FAR?

A. I HAVE NOT MADE ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS OF THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THEIR STATEMENT BUT WHAT I HAVE DONE IS TO DISCUSS IN VERY GENERAL TERMS WITH MR. HAIG THIS MORNING WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES MIGHT BE AND I AM GOING TO HAVE A FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH MR. WEINBERGER THIS AFTERNOON. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST.

A NEW MEDIATOR?

Q. WITH THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY ATTACHED TO THE BRITISH SIDE NOW SIR, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MEDIATE?

A. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER WE CAN FIND, WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND, A MEDIATOR OR MEDIATORS. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT I WILL EXPLORE FURTHER THIS EVENING WHEN I GO TO NEW YORK, BUT THE ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS HAVE GOT TO BE FULFILLED ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE TO START WITH. THEY HAVE GOT TO GO, AND THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY HAS GOT TO REMAIN IN A SITUATION THAT DOES NOT PREJUDGE IT. AND THAT IS A BIG CHANGE FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW. WHETHER WE CAN FIND SUCH A MEDIATOR REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT I CAN IMAGINE QUITE A LOT OF DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES.

FURTHER MILITARY ACTION?

Q. CAN YOU TELL US IF THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED AT THIS POINT OR IF THERE MAY STILL BE MILITARY ACTION?

A. THERE IS NO MILITARY ACTION AT THE PRESENT MOMENT. BUT THE POSITION IS THAT WE ANNOUNCED SOME DAYS AGO THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND THE ACTION WE TOOK YESTERDAY WAS IN DEFENCE OF THAT TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE OVER WHICH WE ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF ACTION. NOW IT MAY BE THAT TODAY IT HAS NOT BEEN CHALLENGED BY THE ARGENTINES. THAT MAY BE THE POSITION, BUT AT ANYRATE THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS WHICH SUGGEST THAT THAT MIGHT BE SO. BUT IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF THE FIGHTING STOPPING, IT PROBABLY IS THAT NOBODY HAS COME INTO THE TEZ AND THEREFORE NO ACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE. BUT THAT IS ONLY A GUESS.

TIMESCALE

Q. ITN

WE KNOW THAT THE WEATHER IS GETTING VERY BAD DOWN IN THE FALKLANDS, TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR MILITARY ACTION. HOW LONG DO YOU GIVE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCEED BEFORE WE GO IN AND FINISH IT OFF MILITARILY?

A. WELL I DON'T KNOW THAT THE WEATHER IS GOING TO HAVE ANY GREAT EFFECT. WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR IN MILITARY ACTION IS TO SECURE THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND THAT WE SHALL GO ON DOING, AND WE SHALL GO ON DOING IT IN ALL WEATHERS. THERE IS NO OTHER MILITARY ACTION ENVISAGED AT THE MOMENT OTHER THAN MAKING THAT ZONE SECURE. NOT ONLY IS THERE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THAT AND SEEKING A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, THEY DO IN FACT GO HAND IN HAND.. BECAUSE UNLESS WE ARE THERE BUILDING UP THE MILITARY PRESSURE TOGETHER WITH ALL THE OTHER PRESSURES THEN IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION AND THAT IS WHAT THE TASK FORCE IS THERE TO DO, TO BACK UP THE NEGOTIATIONS.

WHEN DOES DIPLOMACY RUN OUT?

Q. YOU SAY ARGENTINA MUST LEAVE THE ISLAND, WHEN DOES THE POINT ARISE WHEN DIPLOMACY WILL NOT ACHIEVE THAT END?

A. THEY ARE UNDER A MANDATORY RESOLUTION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ISLANDS. HOW THAT IS TO BE ACHIEVED IS ANOTHER MATTER, THAT I SHALL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL TONIGHT

CONTINUING US ROLE?

INDEPENDENT NEWS:

Q. DO YOU SEE THE US CONTINUING ANY PARTICULAR ROLE?

A. THEY HAVE JUST AS GREAT AN INTEREST AS WE AND ALL THE REST OF US IN TRYING TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IF POSSIBLE, SO I CERTAINLY DO NOT REGARD THEIR ROLE IN THAT AS OVER - CERTAINLY NOT. THE WAY TO ACHIEVE IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS CLEAR, NOT ONLY TO US OR THE THE UNITED STATES, IT ISN'T VERY CLEAR TO ANYBODY, BUT LET'S NOT CLOSE ANY DOORS.

US ECONOMIC ACTION?

Q. JOHN DICKIE. DAILY MAIL: HAVE YOU ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE SOME ACTION AS YOUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS HAVE DONE IN TERMS OF AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE?

A. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THE UNITED STATES MADE A FEW DAYS AGO COMING IN SUPPORT OF BRITAIN, THERE WAS AN ECONOMIC PART OF IT AND I THINK YOU WILL FIND PROBABLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THERE WILL BE FURTHER EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT PRECISE ACTION IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD THEY HAVE TAKEN. BUT CERTAINLY THEIR INITIAL STATEMENT DOES INCLUDE ECONOMIC MEASURES..... THAT WAS AN INITIAL STATEMENT AND WE DISCUSSED IT THIS MORNING AND IT MAY VERY WELL BE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE FURTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES. MR HAIG HAS SAID THAT HE WILL CONSIDER THAT BUT IT IS UP TO THE UNITED STATES TO DECIDE THAT.

Q. WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET IT ON THE SAME LEVEL AS YOUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS?

A. OH NATURALLY, I WANT TO SEE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PRESSURE APPLIED AND THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES CAME BEHIND BRITAIN IS THE MOST DRAMATIC SINGLE INCREASE IN THE PRESSURE AGAINST THE ARGENTINES THAT ANYBODY COULD POSSIBLY IMAGINE.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO?

Q. OTHER ANALYSTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT NATO SHOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED TO FIGHT COLONIALIST WARS IN THE THIRD WORLD, DO YOU AGREE?

A. THERE'S NO CONNECTION BETWEEN ANY OF THOSE THINGS AND WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AT ALL, NOR DO I THINK THERE WILL BE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OR ANY NEED FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE SO FAR AS NATO IS CONCERNED - ITS RESPONSIBILITIES ARE ENTIRELY CLEAR. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IS THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT OF SELFDETERMINATION, THE RIGHT FOR PEOPLE TO CHOOSE HOW THEY ARE GOING TO GOVERN THEIR COUNTRY FOR THEMSELVES AND NOT HAVE SOME OTHER REGIME IMPOSED UPON THEM AND THAT IS ALL THAT IS IMPLIED HERE AND THE STEPS WE ARE TAKING MILITARILY IS IN ORDER TO ASSIST AND TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM OTHERS?

Q. DO YOU SEE OR REQUIRE ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM ALLIES CLOSER IE AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA AND IF SO WHAT SORT OF ASSISTANCE?

A. WE HAVE NOT ASKED FOR ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND NOBODY AT THE MOMENT HAS OFFERED ANY. IT WOULD BE NO DOUBT WELCOME WERE IT TO BE OFFERED, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THE BASIS OF THE SUPPORT THAT WE ARE RECEIVING AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR IT AND WE ARE NOT AT THE MOMENT THINKING OF ASKING FOR MORE OR FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT FROM THESE COUNTRIES?

A. WELL, ANY INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANCE LIKE THAT THAT THEY CAN GIVE US OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE WELCOME.

SHOPPING LIST?

Q. NBC. YOU SAY YOU HAVE COME HERE WITH NO SHOPPING LIST: WHEN MIGHT WE EXPECT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM BRITAIN?

A. THERE WILL BE A LOT OF CONTACT AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL, AT MILITARY LEVEL, AND AS THE NEEDS BECOME MORE APPARENT THEN SPECIFIC REQUESTS WILL BE MADE, BUT IT'S COVERED I THINK VERY CLEARLY BY THE STATEMENT MADE BY MR HAIG ORIGINALLY IN THE MANNER OF PROVIDING US WITH MATERIEL SUPPORT THAT ARE ASKED FOR.

Q. MIGHT THAT COME AT THE NATO MEETING NEXT WEEK?

A. NO, QUITE SEPARATELY AND DIRECTLY BILATERALLY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

Q. AP. ARE YOU IN FACT SUGGESTING THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY MORE FIGHTING IF ARGENTINA STAYS OUT OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE?

A. IF THEY STAY OUT OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE THEN THERE MAY NOT BE THE CLASHES SUCH AS WE HAD YESTERDAY. BUT OF COURSE THEY STILL HAVE THOUSANDS OF TROOPS ON THE ISLAND AND THEY HAVE STILL GOT TO BE REMOVED BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER SO I CERTAINLY DO NOT IN ANY SENSE INTEND TO SUGGEST THAT THERE WILL NOT BE FURTHER FIGHTING. THAT WOULD BE TOTALLY WRONG.

EROSION OF SUPPORT?

Q. ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT IF THERE IS ESCALATION SOME OF THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GOT ON SANCTIONS AND THE ENTHUSIASM MAY DRIFT AWAY?

A. NO. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SUPPORT THAT WE HAVE WILL CONTINUE. IF IT DRAGS ON A LONG TIME, WHICH OF COURSE WE HOPE IT DOESN'T, IT MAY HAPPEN THAT ONE OR TWO CHANGES MIGHT BE SOUGHT FOR ALL I KNOW, BUT THE WHOLE WEIGHT SO FAR HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN PRESSURE. I HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY KIND TO SUGGEST THAT THAT WILL NOT CONTINUE. AFTERALL, EVERY COUNTRY, NOT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SUPPORTING US BUT A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHO HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT US, EXCEPT BY THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL AND SUPPORT, WILL HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE, WHICH IS TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THESE ISLANDS TO CHOOSE THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THEY WANT. SO I HAVE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE AT THE MOMENT, NO INDICATION OF ANY KIND THAT THAT SUPPORT IS IN ANY WAY WEAKENING. RATHER THE REVERSE.

Q. THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT IF THERE IS CONSIDERABLE BLOODSHED IRELAND MAY BE FORCED TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.

A. WELL, EVERY GOVERNMENT IS ENTITLED TO EXPRESS ANY VIEW THAT THEY WISH. AND OF COURSE WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO CONCLUDE THIS WITHOUT SHEDDING BLOOD, OF COURSE. WE AREN'T FIGHTING THROUGH CHOICE, BRITAIN DOESN'T WANT TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO FIGHT. BUT WE KNOW WHAT IS AT STAKE, IT'S SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERS. IT ACTUALLY IS AT STAKE TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE LIKE THIS - I'VE GOT A PARLIAMENT TO ANSWER TO BACK HOME. ALL DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS ARE IN THAT SITUATION. THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO EVERY COUNTRY AND WHEN A COUNTRY HAS THAT RIGHT, AND IT'S REMOVED FROM THEM BY FORCE, IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF EVERYBODY TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT IS PUT RIGHT AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE ENGAGED IN DOING AT THE PRESENT TIME.

MILITARY STRENGTH SUFFICIENT?

Q. FINANCIAL TIMES. YOU SAY YOU HAVE NOT ASKED FOR ANY SPECIFIC SUPPORT FROM THE US - DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ARE CONFIDENT THAT BRITAIN HAS THE MILITARY STRENGTH TO RECLAIM THE ISLANDS BY FORCE IF NECESSARY?

A. OBVIOUSLY THE UNITED STATES WANT TO GIVE US SUPPORT, SHORT OF A DIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. AND WE WANT IT AND WE NEED IT, LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND OTHER KINDS OF SUPPORT. I HAVEN'T COME HERE TO SPECIFICALLY TO ASK FOR THIS THAT OR THE OTHER, BUT I AM SURE THAT WE SHALL GET DOWN TO THE DETAILS BOTH AT THE MILITARY LEVEL AND AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL.

Q. FINANCIAL TIMES. YOU SAID WE NEED IT, OR CAN WE DO IT BY OURSELVES?

A. YES, WELL IT'S A VERY GREAT HELP.

SOVIET UNION AND CUBA?

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION OR DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION OR CUBA ARE GIVING ANY ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA AND DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BREAK DOWN AS AN EAST/WEST ISSUE?

A. I THINK THE LAST IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. I'VE GOT VIRTUALLY NO INFORMATION ON THE FORMER - THERE IS OF COURSE CONTACT, NATURALLY: THE ARGENTINES ARE HAVING THEIR TRADE AFFECTED BY WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAS DONE AND NO DOUBT NOW BY WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING, AND ARMS SUPPLIES ARE ALL CUT OFF FROM THEM. IN LATIN AMERICA ITSELF, WHEREAS THERE IS IN SOME QUARTERS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR THEM AND A SYMPATHY WITH THEIR POINT OF VIEW, - THERE IS ALSO A DESIRE THAT THE MILITARY SIDE OF IT SHOULD NOT ESCALATE. BUT ON YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTION, I HAVE VERY LITTLE INFORMATION, WHICH SUGGESTS TO ME THAT THERE PROBABLY ISN'T MORE THAN A FAIRLY SMALL AMOUNT OF CONTACT.

NEXT STEP IN NEGOTIATION?

Q. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE NEXT STEP TO GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING AGAIN?

A. I AM TRYING TO FIND ANY MEANS THAT WOULD PRODUCE A SUCCESSFUL RESULT. BUT I THINK THE REAL POINT IS A CHANGE OF HEART BY THE ARGENTINES. THEY MUST NOT REMAIN WITH THEIR CLAIM FOR ASSERTING SOVEREIGNTY. THEY HAVE HAD A CLAIM THEY SAY FOR A LONG TIME. OK, THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH THAT CAN BE SETTLED AND IN FACT ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO WE WERE ACTUALLY ROUND THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH THEM - UNTIL THEY TOOK THIS AGGRESSIVE ACTION. AND ALSO THEY HAVE GOT TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES. SO THOSE ARE TWO OF THE CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET AND I AM HERE TO SEARCH FOR WHATEVER WAYS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO FIND A DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT.

HMG'S ATTITUDE TO HAIG PROPOSALS?

Q. CAN YOU STATE UNAMBIGUOUSLY THAT IF ARGENTINA HAD ACCEPTED MR HAIG'S LAST SET OF PROPOSALS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME?

A. NO. I CANNOT SAY THAT UNAMBIGUOUSLY BECAUSE AS I MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR, AND SO DID MY PRIME MINISTER, IT HAD REAL DIFFICULTIES FOR US. BUT WHAT HE SAID IN HIS STATEMENT WAS THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD CONSIDER PROPOSALS ON THESE LINES: AND THE ANSWER IS THAT WE HAD BEEN CONSIDERING PROPOSALS ON THESE LINES. HIS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS DID HAVE DIFFICULTIES FOR US: AND OF COURSE IT WAS RIGHT FOR THE ARGENTINES TO RESPOND FIRST. BUT AS THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO DO THE BASIC ESSENTIALS, WHICH I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED, THEN THERE WAS NO POINT IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GOING ANY FURTHER. THAT IS THE POSITION THERE.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL?

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO NEW YORK TO SEEK HELP FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL, OR TO SEE WHAT HELP THEY MIGHT GIVE YOU?

A. I AM GOING TO EXPLORE WHATEVER POSSIBILITIES MAY EXIST - I HAVEN'T YET HAD THE CHANCE OF MEETING THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND I WANT TO DISCOVER WHAT IDEAS HE MAY HAVE, I WILL SHARE SOME VIEWS I MAY HAVE, AND I WILL SEE WHAT PROGRESS WE CAN MAKE.

ESCALATION IN LATIN AMERICA?

Q. DO YOU FEAR THAT THIS MIGHT JEOPARDISE RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THAT IT WILL EXCALATE THE CONFLICT WITH PARTICIPATION OF OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES?

A. I AM AFRIAD I DON'T THINK THAT; BUT EVEN IF THERE MIGHT BE AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH IN IT WE STILL HAVE TO DO WHAT WE ARE DOING BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PUTTING THIS WRONG RIGHT ARE VERY SERIOUS INDEED, FOR MANY COUNTRIES IN ALL CONTINENTS. SO THERE MAY BE SOME RISK THERE, BUT I THINK THERE MIGHT BE EVEN GREATER RISK IF WE ALLOWED INTERNATIONAL DISORDER UNDER A THREAT - NOT A THREAT OF FORCE, THE ACTUAL USE OF FORCE - TO GO UNCHALLENGED.

MILITARY STRATEGY?

Q: IS YOUR STRATEGY SIMPLY TO CUT OFF THE FORCE ON THE ISLANDS AND STARVE THEM OUT? IS THAT THE BOTTOM LINE OF YOUR STRATEGY?

A: THERE IS NO BOTTOM LINE OF STRATEGY OF THAT KIND. WE ARE FIRST OF ALL THERE TO SECURE THE ZONE, AS I SAID. IT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY HAVE THAT RESULT. AND THAT MIGHT BE ENOUGH PERHAPS FOR THE ARGENTINES TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS - I RATHER DOUBT IT. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE GOT IS WHO ARE YOU DEALING WITH DOWN THERE? THERE ARE SO MANY VIEWS, THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS. THE JUNTA THINKS ONE THING AND THE GENERALS AND THE ADMIRALS THINK SOMETHING ELSE, AND THEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAYS SOMETHING ELSE: IT'S VERY DIFFICULT IN THIS AREA TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE THINKING. IF THAT SITUATION WERE TO ARISE, IT MAY BE FOR ALL I KNOW THAT THEY WOULD TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW: BUT WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CHANGE?

Q. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT PART OF BRITAIN'S STRATEGY IS TO TRY TO GET A CHANGE OF ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. WOULD BRITAIN HAVE A BETTER CHANCE WITH A CHANGE IN THE JUNTA?

A. I HAVE 'NT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA AND I AM NOT SURE THAT I MIND VERY MUCH. IF THEY DECIDE TO CHANGE THEIR LEADERS - WELL, THAT IS A MATTER FOR THEM. IT IS QUITE CLEAR AND ON THE TABLE WHAT WE WANT, AND WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS REQUIRES THEM TO DO, AND IF THAT REQUIRES THEM TO CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT ONCE OR TWICE, SO BE IT.

UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE?

Q. UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BRITAIN BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME KIND OF UN PEACE KEEPING ROLE?

A. WELL THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. OF COURSE THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONDITIONS FULFILLED. WHETHER THAT IS THE BEST WAY OF DOING IT I DON'T KNOW. YOU SEE THERE OUGHTN'T REALLY TO BE THE NEED FOR A PEACE KEEPING ROLE, THEY OUGHT TO GO FROM THE ISLAND AND THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OUGHT TO BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS AS THE POSITION WAS BEFORE. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OF SETTLING IT, IT CERTAINLY CAN'T BE SETTLED BY FORCE. THEY HAVE TRIED TO SETTLE IT BY FORCE, THEY HAVE INVADED THE ISLAND AND THEY SHOW EVERY SIGN OF TRYING TO STAY THERE. SORRY, THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED.

CHANCES OF AVOIDING FULL SCALE HOSTILITIES

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CHANCES ARE THAT THE SITUATION CAN BE DEFUSED WITHOUT COMING TO FULL-SCALE HOSTILITIES?

A. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T GIVE UP HOPE OF THAT. SOME OF YOU IN THIS ROOM WOULD BE MUCH MORE EXPERIENCED THAN ME IN READING THE ARGENTINES' MIND AND HOW THEY WOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IT AND HOW THEY WOULD BE LOOKING AT IT. BUT I THINK THE VENTS OF YESTERDAY AND SOUTH GEORGIA HAVE CERTAINLY HAD THEIR EFFECT. I HAVEN'T ANY DOUBT OF IT. WHEN AIRCRAFT GET SHOT DOWN, AND WHEN THEY FIND WHEN THEY ARE CHALLENGED THEY LOSE, THAT WILL CONCENTRATE THEIR MINDS VERY SHARPLY; AND IT IS IN THIS SENSE AND IN THIS WAY THAT THE BUILD-UP OF MILITARY PRESSURE, ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHERS, HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON THE ATTAINMENT, WHICH IS OUR OBJECTIVE, OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

ARGENTINE RESOLVE?

Q. DO YOU DETECT ANY SOFTENING OF ARGENTINE RESOLVE?

A. I REAKON THERE ARE A LOT OF WORRIED PEOPLE RUNNING ROUND BUENOS AIRES.

US MILITARY AID

Q. DO YOU THINK THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPLY THE UK WITH MORE DIRECT MEANS OF MILITARY AID?

A. WE RESPECT THE BASIS UPON WHICH THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED US AND WE ARE QUITE SATISFIED WITH IT. AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GIVE US IN THE GENERAL FIELD OF MATERIEL. SO WE ARE QUITE HAPPY ABOUT THAT, AND ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR IT; AND I THINK THE IMPACT OF THEIR SUPPORT AND THE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON THE REST OF THE WORLD, THAT WE ARE ALL IN THIS FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SELF DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES, FOR THE CONTINUATION OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT, FOR THE RIGHT TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE LIKE THIS.

HAIG ON MATERIEL SUPPORT

Q. DID HAIG TELL YOU WHAT IS OR IS NOT INCLUDED IN MATERIEL SUPPORT - FOR INSTANCE, AMERICAN SUPPLY PLANES TO FERRY SUPPLIES TO ASCENSION ISLAND?

A. NO I CAN'T GIVE YOU A SPECIFIC ANSWER ON THAT, BECAUSE WE JUST DISCUSSED AND EXPLORED THE GENERAL AREAS OF POSSIBLE SUPPORT, AND I AM GOING TO HAVE A FURTHER DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON WITH MR. WEINBERGER. BUT AGAIN IN MY CASE I AM NOT GOING TO GET DOWN TO THE DETAILS. IT'S THE EXPLORATION PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE CLOSELY, OF THE AREAS WHERE THEY THINK THEY CAN GIVE SUPPORT, AND WHERE THEY ARE ABLE TO, AND WOULD LIKE TO, AND IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND OF COURSE IT WILL ASSIST US.

NO BRITISH LANDING?

Q. DID YOU EARLIER ANSWERS SEEM TO RULE OUT BRITIAN LANDING ON THE FALKLANDS IN FAVOUR OF SECURING THE 200 MILE ZONE?

A. I WOULDN'T COMMENT ON ANY SPECULATION ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF BRITISH FORCES, NOR WOULD I WISH IN ANY WAY TO SPECULATE ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE MILITARY ACTIONS. THERE ARE A LOT OF OPTIONS BUT WE ARE NOT TAKING ANY DECISIONS ABOUT THOSE AT THE MOMENT, THE POSITION IS EXACTLY AS I DESCRIBED IT: THE BUILD UP OF PRESSURE WHICH I HOPE WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF CAUSING THE JUNTA AND THOSE IN THE ARGENTINE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND COME TO THEIR SENSES AND TAKE THEIR ARMY AWAY AND GET BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN A CIVILISED WAY.

FCO PLEASE ONPASS TO COI TELEGRAPH ROOM.

HENDERSON

[REPETITION TO GUATEMALA CITY REFERRED FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION, REPEATED AS REQUESTED TO OTHER POSTS]

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