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FALKLANDS: CONVERSATION WITH HAIG

1. I RANG MR HAIG AGAIN AT 1910Z.
2. HAIG SAID THAT COSTA MENDEZ WOULD BE WITH HIM IN 20 MINUTES TIME, AND HAD INDICATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO STAY IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY IF NECESSARY. THEREAFTER HE WOULD BE GOING TO NEW YORK BEFORE RETURNING TO BUENOS AIRES: IN HAIG'S VIEW HE HAD A UN TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE. HAIG INTENDED TO MAKE VERY CLEAR TO HIM WHERE THE US STOOD. I SAID THAT I WAS GLAD OF THIS. AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, THE US PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PUT TO THE ARGENTINIANS ON A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS, WITH A CLEAR DEADLINE AND HAIG EVIDENTLY MEANT TO KEEP TO THIS. HAIG SAID THAT THIS WAS CORRECT. HE HAD DISCUSSED THE POSITION WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND THEY WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT OVER THIS. IF, HOWEVER, ANYTHING MINOR CAME OUT OF THE MEETING WITH COSTA MENDEZ, HE WOULD LET US KNOW AT ONCE: IN HIS MESSAGE SETTING UP THE FORTHCOMING MEETING, MENDEZ HAD CLAIMED TO HAVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS. COSTA MENDEZ HAD TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE FIRST PHASE - OAS ENDORSEMENT OF ARGENTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY - WAS COMPLETE, AND THAT THEY WERE NOW READY TO PROCEED TO THE SECOND PHASE. I INDICATED THAT I DID NOT FIND THIS ENCOURAGING. THE TIME FACTOR WAS MUCH IN OUR MINDS. THERE WAS ALSO TOMORROW'S COMMONS DEBATE WHICH WAS RELEVANT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAKING THE US PROPOSALS PUBLIC. HAIG SAID THAT TO GO PUBLIC NOW WOULD BE A MISTAKE. IN HIS BRIEFING TO THE SENATE, HE WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS: AND HE WOULD BE WARNING COSTA MENDEZ OFF DOING SO. THE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC ONLY WHEN THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO HOPE. I SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT WELL BE IN HALF-AN-HOUR'S TIME. IF

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HAIG DID NOT INTEND TO GO PUBLIC BEFORE 1100Z TOMORROW, IT WOULD BE BETTER FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IF THIS WAS NOT DONE UNTIL FRIDAY. HAIG SAID THAT HE HAD IN ANY CASE BEEN THINKING IN TERMS OF FRIDAY. THE REVELATION OF DETAILS SHOULD BE TRIGGERED BY A QUOTE MAJOR CHANGE IN THE SITUATION UNQUOTE. ONE HAD TO REMEMBER THAT THE ARGENTINIANS TENDED TO BE 24 HOURS BEHIND REALITY.

4. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE US POSITION WAS THAT THE US PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PUT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO THE ARGENTINIANS, SINCE IT WAS FOR THEM TO IMPLEMENT SCR 502, HAIG SAID THAT THIS WAS RIGHT: THERE HAD BEEN SIMULTANIETY IN TRANSMISSION: BUT HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT I MEANT. HE UNDERTOOK TO TELEPHONE WHEN HE HAD SEEN COSTA MENDEZ.

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