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FM WASHINGTON 291948Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1511 OF 29 APRIL 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

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FALKLANDS

1. FOLLOWING THE PUS'S CALL I SPOKE TO HAIG AND ASKED HIM WHETHER HE WAS THINKING OF PUBLISHING THE TEXT OF THE US PROPOSALS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT THINKING OF DOING SO BECAUSE HE REALISED THAT IT COULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR HMG.

2. I EMPHASISED HOW ANXIOUS WE WERE TO SEE THE WORDING THE US GOVERNMENT WERE THINKING OF USING ABOUT THE BRITISH REACTION TO THEIR PROPOSALS. HAIG SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY TRY TO ENSURE THAT WE SAW THE DRAFT TEXT. HIS PRESENT INTENTION WAS TO HAVE SOME GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE CAUSE OF THE BREAKDOWN, SHOWING THAT IT WAS ARGENTINIAN INTRANSIGENCE ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY THAT HAD CAUSED IT WHEREAS THE BRITISH WERE READY TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE PROVIDED THE WISHES OF THE INHABITANTS WERE RESPECTED.

3 HAIG SAID HE HAD RUNG ME TO SAY THAT, HAVING SEEN THE FRONT PAGE OF TODAY'S GUARDIAN, HE UNDERSTOOD ENTIRELY, AND SYMPATHISED WITH, THE CONCERN MANIFESTED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT TODAY. THE GUARDIAN PUBLISHED AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT DR BAILEY OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF HAD SAID AT A SPERLING BREAKFAST. AS HE HAD TOLD ME EVERYTHING BAILEY HAD SAID HAD BEEN UNTRUE. HE WAS ISSUING THE NECESSARY DENIALS AND ALSO MAKING SURE THAT BAILEY WAS DISMISSED FROM OFFICE. BUT HE SAW THE DAMAGE THAT SUCH A REPORT COULD DO IN LONDON AND WAS OBVIOUSLY APOLOGETIC THOUGH IT WAS A WHITE HOUSE BUNGLE, NOT HIS.

HENDERSON