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CONFIDENTIAL

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FM BRASILIA 141600Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 163 OF 14 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BONN

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54 YOUR TELNO 107 (NOT TO BONN): MESSAGE FROM BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

1. THIS MESSAGE MUST HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY DIRECT FROM PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S PARTY WHILE THEY WERE IN WASHINGTON. INDEED, I WOULD GUESS THAT IT OWES SOMETHING TO FIGUEIREDO'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN IN WHICH, AS FORESHADOWED IN PAARA 4 OF MY TELNO 162, HE WILL CERTAINLY HAVE SPOKEN VERY PLAINLY OF HIS FEARS OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS GETTING OUT OF HAND.
2. THIS MORNING'S JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTS UNDER A WASHINGTON DATELINE THAT PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO SENT A LETTER YESTERDAY TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REQUESTING THAT HE SHOULD INTERCEDE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN ORDER TO INDUCE BRITAIN TO SHOW MODERATION IN THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. THIS SEEMS AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ROUNDABOUT WAY FOR FIGUEIREDO TO PUT HIS VIEWS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIRECT MESSAGE IN TUR. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS MAY, AS USUAL, MERELY HAVE GOT HOLD OF THE WRONG END OF THE STICK.
3. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S MESSAGE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CONCERN IT VOICES IS DIRECTED PRIMARILY TO THE REPERCUSSIONS OF A FULL SCALE, AND PROBABLY BLOODY, BRITISH ONSLAUGHT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, WHICH IS NOW SEEN HERE AS IN IMMINENT PROSPECT. GIVEN THAT THE BRAZILIANS ARE, GIVEN THEIR PORTUGUESE ORIGINS, MUCH LESS PRONE TO BE SUBMERGED BY WAVES OF HISPANO-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY THAN THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, I SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S VIEW DESERVES TO BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT. I NOTE FROM WASHINGTON TELNO 1731 THAT MR HAIG'S FRIENDLY WARNING, APPARENTLY ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO, REFERRED TO THE REPERCUSSIONS OF AN ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND AND NOT OF ONE ON THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES. OBVIOUSLY, AN ATTACK ON THE MAINLAND WOULD BE SEEN HERE, AS ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA, AS QUITE DIFFERENT IN KIND, AND MUCH MORE SERIOUS IN IMPORT, THAN AN ATTACK ON THE FALKLANDS.
4. AS TO A REPLY, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER BE ADVISED TO HOLD OFF REPLYING UNTIL NEW DEVELOPMENTS MAKE A FRESH MESSAGE OPPORTUNE.

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MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER FROM BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE RECEIVED ON 12 MAY THROUGH BRAZILIAN EMBASSY:

'I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR YOUR KIND TELEGRAM OF YESTERDAY'S DATE, MAY 11TH.

IT IS ENCOURAGING TO HAVE A REAFFIRMATION OF THE ENDEAVOUR OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR THE QUESTION.

BEARING IN MIND, HOWEVER, THE GROWING MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, WHICH INCREASES THE RISKS OF AN ARMED CONFRONTATION OF SERIOUS PROPORTIONS, I WISH TO REITERATE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE CONCERN OF MY COUNTRY, ITS GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION, THAT SUCH RISKS MIGHT MAR THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS NOW BEING MADE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MR PEREZ DE CUELLAR. SUCH OCCURRENCE, AS YOUR EXCELLENCY CAN WELL IMAGINE, COULD HAVE SERIOUS AND DEEP REPERCUSSIONS BOTH IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENTAL PICTURE AS WELL AS IN THE WORLD.

I TRUST, THEREFORE, THAT THE PARTIES TO THE QUESTION, IN NO MOMENT SHOULD FAIL TO ADOPT A FLEXIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE WITHIN THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND I ONCE AGAIN REAFFIRM THE WISHES OF MY COUNTRY FOR A SUCCESSFUL END FOR SUCH EFFORTS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE PERIOD OF TIME.

WITH MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.'

2. WE ARE CONSIDERING QUESTION OF A REPLY.

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