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Hd / NEWS D

ZZ F C O *****

Hd Def D. 1722
Mr Critchmore

ZZ UKMIS NEW YORK*****

Mr Wright

PS
PS / Mr Dawson
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GR 230

Calr. Office

{ Sir Michael Palliser
Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr Wade Gery

Sir I Sinclair

SECRET

FM WASHINGTON 291647Z APR 82

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Mr Bullard

TO FLASH F C O

TELEGRAM NO 1510 OF 29 APRIL

INFO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

Mr Giffard

Mr UCE

No 10 D.S. ✓

YOUR TELNO 868: FALKLANDS

Handwritten mark

1. I KNOW THAT THE CABINET HAD FUNDAMENTAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE US PROPOSALS. AT THE RISK OF STATING THE OBVIOUS, I SHOULD SAY THAT IT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE WITH THE AMERICANS FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT IT WAS THE ARGENTINIANS WHO HAD BEEN COMPLETELY INFLEXIBLE AND THAT WE HAD BEEN "FORTHRIGHT", TO USE HAIG'S WORD TO ME YESTERDAY. IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE US TO COME DOWN EMPHATICALLY ON OUR SIDE IF THEY CAN LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE BLAME FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF THE NEGOTIATIONS LAY EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE ARGENTINIANS.

2. I HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE OF SEEING THE US TEXT ON THIS SUBJECT THOUGH, FROM THE WAY THINGS GO HERE, ONE CAN NEVER BE SURE OF THIS. BUT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OUR PUBLIC POSTURE COULD WE NOT TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE IN DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE HAD ACCEPTED THE US PROPOSALS: THE US PROPOSALS WERE CONVEYED TO THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING DETAILED TALKS BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. SINCE THE ARGENTINIANS WERE THE AGGRESSORS, IT WAS NATURAL THAT THE USA'S PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE. MR HAIG WAS IN NO DOUBT ABOUT WHAT WAS FUNDAMENTAL TO HMG AND THE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE OF OUR APPROACH AND EAGERNESS FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. BUT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PRONOUNCE ON THE USA PROPOSALS IN ANY DETAIL UNLESS THE ARGENTINIANS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEM, WHICH THEY WERE NOT.

HENDERSON