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Mr. Ingham

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 012240Z JUN 82

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1982 OF 1 JUNE

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR INGHAM, NO. 10 DOWNING STREET.
PRIME MINISTERS DINNER WITH ASSOCIATION OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS

1. TELECOM INGHAM/THOMAS REFERS.

AS WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY, THERE IS A RISING TIDE, IN U.S. MEDIA COMMENT, OF CALLS FOR QUOTE MAGNANIMITY UNQUOTE ON OUR PART (I E READINESS TO ACCEPT SOMETHING LESS THAN TOTAL ARGENTINE DEFEAT, AND TO CONTEMPLATE SOME FORM OF ARGENTINE INVOLVEMENT IN THE LONG-TERM FUTURE). INCREASING CONCERN IS EXPRESSED OVER THE LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO U.S. INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE PRIME MINISTER COULD MAKE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:-

- (I) OUR QUARREL NOT WITH LATIN AMERICA. FULLY RECOGNISE IMPORTANCE, FOR US AND THE U.S., OF CLOSE AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS AND WILL WORK FOR THESE. BEHIND THE RHETORIC OF SOLIDARITY, NOT ALL OF LATIN AMERICA SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S ACTION.
- (II) OUR QUARREL NOT EVEN WITH ARGENTINA (LONG-STANDING AND CLOSE PERSONAL AND COMMERCIAL TIES), BUT, WITH MILITARY JUNTA'S ARMED AGRSSION.
- (III) NOT A COLONIAL ISSUE - OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS HAVE DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS TO RELINQUISH COLONIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH INHABITANTS WISHES. BRITISH SETTLERS IN FALKLANDS EVERY BIT AS MUCH RIGHT TO BE THERE AS OTHER EUROPEAN SETTLERS IN ARGENTINA. THOUGH FEW THEY ARE A PEOPLE WITH A RIGHT TO CHOOSE HOW THEY WANT TO BE GOVERNED. NOT PREPARED TO HAND OVER INHABITANTS AGAINST THEIR WILL, TO MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. IT IS ARGENTINES WHO SEEK TO COLONISE, BY FORCE.

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- (IV) WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN READY TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM FUTURE, WHILE TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF WISHES OF INHABITANTS; IT IS ARGENTINES WHO HAVE INSISTED ON PREJUDGING THE OUTCOME. OUR FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS, TOTAL ARGENTINE INTRANSIGENCE (CONFIRMED BY HAIG). WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID USE OF FORCE.
- (V) U.S. SUPPORT OVER BASIC ISSUES INVOLVED WAS IMPORTANT. PRINCIPLES OF RULE OF LAW, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, SELF-DETERMINATION, MUST BE DEFENDED IN U.S. AS WELL AS U.K. INTEREST. ALSO GRATEFUL FOR MATERIAL U.S. SUPPORT ABOUT WHICH NOT EXPEDIENT TO GIVE DETAILS.

HENDERSON

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