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Se refiere a:

03JUN82 – Holmes a Coles. Documentos para la concurrencia de Margaret Thatcher al Summit del G7 en Versailles.
Anexo 04: Actitud de Francia.

(PREM 19/724) (desclasificado diciembre 2012)

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VERSAILLES ECONOMIC SUMMIT : ATTITUDES TO THE FALKLANDS OF OTHER SUMMIT COUNTRIES

FRANCE

1. The French Government have from the outset been unequivocal in their support for British action over the Falklands, both at the UN and elsewhere, although France has adopted no formal position on the question of sovereignty over the Islands. President Mitterrand, has made several public statements of support : the latest on American television over the weekend of May 29/30. The French position has been based on recognition of the issues of principle involved (international law, peaceful settlement of disputes, Argentina the aggressor), the implications for French overseas territories, and solidarity with a fellow EC/NATO/permanent UN Security Council member.

2. The Communist Ministers have maintained government solidarity over the Falklands, although the Communist Party leader and the official Communist daily L'Humanité, have condemned British action as colonialist in inspiration. For the rest, with one or two exceptions, press reporting has been reasonably fair and objective.

3. French government support has been translated into practical intervention on the UK's behalf, eg with the Japanese, and over arms supplies by third countries. The French have supported EC sanctions throughout.

4. French support will continue 'as long as the conflict lasts'. President Mitterrand has told the Prime Minister that he always expected the present phase to end in military recapture of the Falklands. But he is concerned that a long-term solution should be found and that relations between Europe and Latin America should not be permanently damaged. He has urged publicly and privately that diplomacy should be active in the next phase. France's economic and commercial interests in Latin America will be a factor in her attitude.

5. The Prime Minister will know of the latest developments

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concerning the French block on Exocet deliveries to Peru. The French Government have given us vital cooperation in our efforts to prevent Argentina obtaining Exocets via third parties. They have come under strong pressure as a result from the manufacturers, which they believe they have resisted. The French have also provided, on a confidential basis, a considerable amount of technical information on French arms held by Argentina, as well as practice for our pilots against Mirages. On 2 occasions articles in the British press (notably a Sunday Times piece on the sale of Exocet to Argentina) have resulted in French complaints. Those have been smoothed over by letters from Mr Nott to M. Hernu, and by public statements acknowledging French support.

6. Separate briefing is being provided on Lt Cdr Astiz.

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FALKLANDS : FRENCH ATTITUDE

1. SPEAKING ABOUT THE FALKLANDS IN THE COURSE OF A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 24 MAY IN THE IVORY COAST, PRESIDENT MITTERRAND IS QUOTED BY LE MONDE AS SAYING THAT " BRITAIN IS OUR ALLY, IT IS A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE LIVED OVER THE COURSE OF THIS CENTURY THROUGH THE MOST TRAGIC MOMENTS OF OUR EXISTENCE. WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH A PERIOD OF INTENSE SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN AND BRITAIN WITH US. ALL THESE LINKS BETWEEN US CANNOT BE AT THE MERCY OF EVENTS, HOWEVER REGRETTABLE, SUCH AS THOSE GOING ON AT THE MOMENT". AFTER DESCRIBING LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS THAT BRITAIN'S BEHAVIOUR WAS COLONIALIST AS "RATHER EXCESSIVE", MITTERRAND WENT ON: "FRANCE HAS VERY STRONG STRONG LINKS WITH LATIN AMERICA WHICH GO BEYOND TRADE LINKS, WHICH DERIVE FROM FACTORS OF CIVILISATION. WE THEREFORE WANT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THESE PEOPLES, WE HAVE IT AND WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT". MITTERRAND ADDED THAT THE ARGENTINE INITIATIVE HAD OFFENDED "BRITAIN , OUR FRIEND" IN ITS INTERESTS AND ITS PRIDE. HE OBSERVED THAT FROM THE MOMENT WHEN BRITAIN IT COULD NOT ACCEPT THE FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THE FALKLANDS, ITS FLEETS COULD NOT RETURN HOME WITHOUT FULFILLING ITS MISSION WHICH COULD NOT BE JUST ONE OF INTIMIDATION. MITTERRAND CONCLUDED : "FRANCE WILL ALWAYS BE A FIRM SUPPORTER OF A RETURN TO A JUST PEACE ('PAIX DANS LE RESPECT DU DROIT')". THIS MEANS THAT EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT BE DONE AND SAID TO BRING ABOUT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE END TO THE FIGHTING WHILE RESPECTING THE LAW WILL BE DONE BY FRANCE. HOWEVER WE WILL NOT DO IT OUT OF INDULGENCE TOWARDS ONE PARTY OR THE OTHER, WE WILL DO IT BECAUSE THE RETURN TO A JUST PEACE IS A CONSTANT THEME OF FRENCH DIPLOMACY". IN THIS CONNECTION, MITTERRAND RECALLED FRANCE'S ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION 502.

2. SPEAKING IN SIMILAR VEIN AT AIX-EN-PROVENCE ON 23 MAY, THE FRENCH DEFENCE MINISTER SAID " IF WE WANT PEACE THAT MEANS A JUST PEACE ALLOW THE DEFENCE MINISTER TO SAY IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE AGRESSOR IS ARGENTINA, AND THE VICTIM IS BRITAIN, AND THAT BRITAIN IS DEFENDING ITS RIGHTS".

3. HERNU IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM MR NOTT OR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE LOAN OF FRENCH PLANES TO BRITAIN. HE WAS COMMENTING ON REPORTS STEMMING APPARENTLY FROM A CLAIM

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MARCEL DASSAULT HAD MADE ON THE RADIO THAT BRITAIN HAD ASKED FOR THE LOAN OF SUPER-ETANDARDS AND MIRAGES TO STUDY THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

4. FRENCH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PANDINGS HAS BEEN REASONABLY FAVOURABLE. LE FIGARO AND LE QUOTIDIEN (BOTH RIGHT-WING) HAVE CARRIED STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE EDITORIALS AND EVEN LE MONDE IN ITS EDITORIAL ON 23 MAY ADMITTED THAT WHATEVER ARGENTINA'S RIGHTS MIGHT BE OVER THE FALKLANDS IT HAS BEEN THE AGGRESSOR.
FRETWELL

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France / Falklands

FALKLANDS: US TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

1. IN A US TELEVISION INTERVIEW AT THE WEEKEND (A CURTAIN RAISER TO THE VERSAILLES SUMMIT) PRESIDENT MITTERRAND WAS ASKED WHETHER CONTINUED FIGHTING BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA WOULD INTRUDE ON THE SUMMIT. HE REPLIED :

'IT SO HAPPENS THAT LIKE MANY OTHERS WE FOUND OURSELVES IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE — EMBARRASSING SITUATION — BECAUSE OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. ON THE ONE HAND, GREAT BRITAIN, AN ALLY, A FRIEND, THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THAT COUNTRY IS INTERWOVEN WITH OUR OWN, MANY, MANY YEARS AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY, WITH TWO WORLD WARS, WE ARE REALLY WELDED TOGETHER WITH GREAT BRITAIN. AND SO IF THERE ISN'T A REFLEX OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE THEN BETWEEN WHOM COULD SUCH A REFLEX EXIST?

WE AREN'T, IN SAYING THAT, SETTLING THE PROBLEM IN LAW. BY USING FORCE, BY CHOOSING FORCE, ARGENTINA HAS IN FACT BROKEN THE RULE OF LAW AND DISPLACED SOMETHING WRONG. AND SO, THE BRITISH REACTION WAS A FAIRLY OBVIOUS ONE. THE BRITISH WOULDN'T HAVE SENT A NAVAL TASK FORCE ALL THAT DISTANCE JUST TO MAKE IT GO ON, SAIL TOWARDS CHINA OR POLYNESIA.

WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA, AND WE ARE REALLY VERY SAD TO BE IN SUCH A SITUATION IN WHICH THOSE COUNTRIES COULD PERHAPS DOUBT OUR FRIENDSHIP, THE COMMON BASIS, THE COMMON CIVILIZATION THAT WE HAVE. SO WE ARE IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE IS ONLY A BAD SIDE TO IT AND THAT OF COURSE IS VERY FREQUENT IN POLITICAL LIFE. SO I DECIDED THAT OUR DUTY WAS FIRST OF ALL TO SHOW FULL SOLIDARITY WITH THE BRITISH, NUMBER ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF AN OPPRESSION. THEY HAVE BEEN INJURED, THEIR INTERESTS, AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL PRIDE AS WELL.

THE SECOND POINT IS THAT WE MUST DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN DO BECAUSE, ONCE GREAT BRITAIN HAS MANAGED TO AGAIN GET CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OR PART OF THE PROPERTY, THEN WE MUST DO ALL THAT WE CAN POSSIBLY DO IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE BY THE VARIOUS MEANS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS WILL EVOLVE, IN PARTICULAR, THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S MISSION. AND AS WE SAID AT THE VERY BEGINNING, THROUGH RESOLUTION 502 IN PARTICULAR WE MUST MOVE TOWARDS PEACE THROUGH LAW. SO THAT IS THE SITUATION''.

HENDERSON

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