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IMMEDIATE

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/1  
MR BULLARD  
SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
LORD N GORDON LENNOX  
LORD BRIDGES  
MR URE  
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PS/CHANCELLOR }  
MR ILETT } TREASURY  
MR LITTLER }

MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }  
SIR M PALLISER } CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY }  
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO }  
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Room 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

EMERGENCY UNIT  
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UNCLASSIFIED  
FM PARIS 071715Z JUN82  
TO IMMEDIATE DESLBY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 598 OF 7 JUN82

Prime Minister  
This telegram reports President Mitterrand's  
national press conference as well as his  
one on behalf of the 7. Works meeting in  
Paris.  
[Signature]

FALKLANDS: STATEMENTS AT VERSAILLES BY PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

1. IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON BEHALF OF THE SEVEN PARTICIPANTS AT THE SUMMIT ON THE AFTERNOON OF 6 JUNE, MITTERRAND, AFTER REFERRING TO FRANK EXCHANGES AT THE SUMMIT, CONTINUED ON THE FALKLANDS:-

QUOTE. IT WAS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT FROM THE VERY FIRST EVENING WE TACKLED THE WORRYING AFFAIR OF THE ACTS OF WAR IN THE FALKLANDS DUE UNFORTUNATELY TO THE ARGENTINE'S VIOLENT INITIATIVE WHICH RESULTED IN A SERIES OF CONSEQUENCES WHICH GREW LOGICALLY OUT OF THAT SITUATION. AND WE AGAIN REPEATED OUR CONDEMNATION OF THE VIOLENT ACTIONS OR INCITEMENTS TO VIOLENCE THAT WERE PREFERRED BY SOME TO DISCUSSION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES. WHENCE OUR SUPPORT OF SC

RESOLUTION NO 502 AND OUR DESIRE TO SEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE CONCLUSION OF A CEASE-FIRE, THAT IS, ARMISTICE TERMS APPLICABLE TO THE WHOLE CONFLICT OR, RATHER, TO THE TWO COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

WE WANTED TO AFFIRM OUR SOLIDARITY WITH GREAT BRITAIN, WHO AS IT HAPPENS, HAD BEEN THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION AGAINST BOTH ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS AND ITS NATIONAL PRIDE, A SOLIDARITY WHICH IS NATURAL: GREAT BRITAIN MUST REGAIN ITS RIGHT (DOIT RETROUVER SON DROIT), IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING, ONCE ITS RIGHT HAS BEEN REGAINED, SO THAT PEACE TRIUMPHS OVER WAR. UNQUOTE.

2. AFTER HE HAD SPOKEN ON BEHALF OF THE SEVEN, MITTERRAND GAVE HIS OWN SEPARATE, NATIONAL, PRESS CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON THE FALKLANDS:-

3. MITTERRAND WAS ASKED FIRST IF MEASURES HE HAD REFERRED TO IN A PREVIOUS ANSWER AS BEING POSSIBLE IN RELATION TO THE LEBANON WOULD BE THE SAME AS THOSE TAKEN IN RESPECT OF ARGENTINA. AFTER CONDEMNING VIOLENCE IN GENERAL TERMS, MITTERRAND WENT ON TO SAY:

QUOTE. IN THE ARGENTINE BUSINESS THE GREAT PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT AS THE INITIATIVE FOR THE AGGRESSION CAME FROM ARGENTINA, IF YOU CONDEMN VIOLENCE YOU START BY CONDEMNING ARGENTINA. AFTER THAT IT IS A CHAIN OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH IT IS DIFFICULT TO AVOID.

BUT AS THE OBJECTIVE - FRANCE'S, IN ANY CASE (ON THIS I CAN AN ONLY SPEAK FOR MYSELF, FOR MY COUNTRY), IS TO STATE ITS SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN AGAINST THIS VIOLATION OF LAW, AND TO PRESERVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE VERY IMPORTANT RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE, WESTERN EUROPE ALSO, AND LATIN AMERICA, THAT MEANS THAT IN THE DAYS TO COME A WHOLE SERIES OF ACTIONS WILL BE MADE NECESSARY. UNQUOTE.

4. MITTERRAND WAS THEN ASKED IF THE DECLARATION (SIC) OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WENT FURTHER TOWARDS EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK THAN THE POSITIONS WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN UNTIL THEN AND WHETHER THEY HAD AGREED NOT ONLY ON THE NEED FOR A LOCAL CEASE-FIRE BUT ALSO ON THE NEED FOR A CEASE-FIRE WHICH WOULD COVER ALL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT, IE THAT ARGENTINA COULD NOT HARASS BRITISH POSITIONS IN THE FALKLANDS WHEN RIGHT HAD BEEN REESTABLISHED. MITTERRAND REPLIED:

QUOTE. LISTEN, LETS BE STRAIGHTFORWARD. THERE WAS NO TEXT ADOPTED ON THE FALKLANDS-MALOUINES AFFAIR. I SAY FALKLANDS-MALOUINES BECAUSE IF I SAY MALOUINES, YOU TRANSLATE IT AS FALKLANDS AND IF I SAY FALKLANDS OTHERS TRANSLATE IT AS MALOUINES. BUT ITS ALL THE SAME THING. SO I WON'T MAKE A FUTILE SPEECH ABOUT IT.

IT IS A FACT THAT ARGENTINA PREFERRED TO SETTLE BY FORCE A LONG-STANDING DISPUTE IT HAD WITH BRITAIN. IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE NEVER RECOGNISED OR DEFINED BRITAIN'S RIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE ON BRITAIN'S SIDE.

WHY? BECAUSE SHE HAS BEEN ATTACKED, BECAUSE SHE IS OUR FRIEND AND OUR ALLY AND BECAUSE ONCE THE AGRESSION TOOK PLACE A CHAIN OF EVENTS STARTED OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTROL.

WE SUPPORTED FROM THE START UN RESOLUTION 502. THAT IS STILL OUR POSITION. IN ADDITION WE ADOPTED IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AN EMBARGO ON COMMERCIAL EXCHAGES WITH ARGENTINA, WHICH SEEMED TO US THE NORMAL CONSEQUENCE OF OUR CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN, AND ESPECIALLY THE BRITISH ADVANCE THROUGH THE FALKLANDS, IS PART OF AN EVENT OVER WHICH FRANCE HAS NO HOLD, EXCEPT INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE FACT THAT SHE PARTICIPATES IN THIS EMBARGO, THAT IS TRUE. WE JUST THINK THAT WHAT ONE COULD CALL A NEW EVENT IN THIS GAME PREDETERMINED BY FATE WOULD ARISE FROM THE FACT THAT BRITAIN HAD RECOVERED THE SOIL WHICH WAS UNDER DISPUTE.

AFTER THAT, A NEW PHASE WILL BEGIN - THAT IS NOT A PRINCIPLE THAT I AM PUTTING FORWARD, IT IS A POLITICAL FACT - WHICH I HOPE WILL CONCLUDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH A CEASE-FIRE OR AN ARMISTICE, CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, AND FRANCE WILL NATURALLY BE ON THE SIDE OF THOSE ARGUING IN FAVOUR OF THAT. UNQUOTE.

5. SEE MIFT.

FRETWELL

CCN PARA 3 LINE 11 TO READ 'ON THIS I CAN ONLY ' ETC