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ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30/31)

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLYCRE

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
ED/DEF D  
ED/NEWS D  
ED/JRD  
ED/PLANNING STAFF  
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60  
RESIDENT CLERK

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST -

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

PS/CHANCELLOR )  
SIR K COUZENS )  
MR LITTLER )  
MR HAWTH )  
MR PERETZ )  
MR ILETT )  
MR McINTYRE )

TREASURY

MISS DICKSON (HRP DEV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE

MR WADD-GERY CABINET OFFICE

MR FULLER SAFT/DIO " "

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE

SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CARACAS 062000Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 153 OF 6 MAY

AND TO INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 147: FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. I SAW PRESIDENT HERRERA TODAY AT MY REQUEST.
2. I SAID THA RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA WERE MY CONCERN AND THAT I HOPED THAT THESE WERE NOT GOING TO BE PREJUDICED BY FALKLANDS' EVENTS. I HAD BEEN REASSURED BY HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON 3 MAY (MY TELNO 146) THAT HE WAS NOT CONSIDERING AT PRESENT ANY MEASURES AGAINST BRITAIN. THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE HAD NO SUCH INTENTION. BUT HE HOPED THAT THE FALKLANDS' SITUATION WOULD RESOLVE ITSELF VERY QUICKLY. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS GETTING EVER MORE DANGEROUS AND GOVERNMENTS WERE BEING DRAGGED ALONG BY THE MEDIA.
3. WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND THE LATEST PEACE EFFORTS. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT TRY TO MAKE ANY RHETORICAL POINTS.

3. WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND THE LATEST PEACE EFFORTS. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT TRY TO MAKE ANY RHETORICAL POINTS. HE SAID THAT I KNEW HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT BRITAIN HAD DECOLONISED IN A REMARKABLE WAY SINCE THE WAR, BUT THAT BITS LEFT BEHIND, LIKE THE FALKLANDS, WOULD HAVE TO GO. I EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE CIRCUMSCRIBED BY THE SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE.

4. I SAID THAT I FEARED THE FALKLANDS'SITUATION WAS ALSO DANGEROUS IN THAT IT WAS A DISTRACTION FROM THE CARIBBEAN. HMG HAD BEGUN TO TAKE A GREATER, AND I HOPED HELPFUL, INTEREST IN THIS REGION: THEY WERE AMONGST THE FEW WHO HAD SENT OBSERVERS TO EL SALVADOR. THE PRESIDENT NODDED APPROVINGLY AND AGREED THAT THE CARIBBEAN DANGERS HAD NOT DIMINISHED. AT MY SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE A PITY IF CURRENT EVENTS LED TO A DISTANCING OF VENEZUELA FROM HER NATURAL PARTNERS, THE DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT EVENTS HAD UNFORTUNATELY SHARPENED THE CHOICE FOR VENEZUELA BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC WEST AND THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT.

5. THE PRESIDENT WAS THROUGHOUT THE 15 MINUTE INTERVIEW FRIENDLY, DISPASSIONATE AND SENSIBLE. HE SAID THAT I COULD BE ASSURED THAT HE WOULD TAKE NO RASH OR HURRIED STEP WITHOUT THINKING OF THE LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR ANGLO/VENEZUELAN RELATIONS. BUT WHAT HE IS PREPARED TO SAY IN PRIVATE IS NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME AS WHAT HE WILL SAY IN PUBLIC, OR WHAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WILL DO IF EVENTS ON THE GROUND SHOULD DETERIORATE AND THE LOCAL MEDIA START BAYING FOR BLOOD.

6. FULLER RECORD BY BAG.

SECONDE

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