

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(28)

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PM WASHINGTON 091855Z APR 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1216 OF 9 APRIL

FALKLANDS: CALL BY ARGENTINE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER

1. ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL, WINNER OF THE 1980 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, CALLED ON ME THIS MORNING AT HIS REQUEST. HE EMPHASISED THAT HE WAS CALLING ON ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IN NO SENSE REPRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA. ESQUIVEL, WHO HAD ALREADY SENT TELEGRAMS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE QUEEN CALLING FOR NON-USE OF FORCE AND FOR NEGOTIATIONS, SAID THAT HE SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BUT WAS AGAINST THE USE OF FORCE BY THE JUNTA TO IMPLEMENT IT. HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD NOW AVOID THE USE OF FORCE AND START NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE FURTHER BLOOD WAS SHED, WITH INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND FOR THE REGION.

2. I SAID THAT WE HAD NEGOTIATED SERIOUSLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND WERE STILL PREPARED TO DO SO. THE FIRST REQUIREMENT, HOWEVER, WAS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATORY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES. THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLANDS HAD LIVED THERE IN PEACE FOR OVER 150 YEARS. THEY HAD EVERY RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND COULD NOT BE FORCED AGAINST THEIR WILL TO SUBMIT TO THE ARGENTINE DICTATORSHIP.

3. ESQUIVEL SAID THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO BUENOS AIRES ON MONDAY 12 APRIL, AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH POLITICAL LEADERS AND OTHERS. IF HE WISHED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN, HE WOULD DO SO THROUGH THE SWISS EMBASSY.

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4. ESQUIVEL IS OF COURSE NO FRIEND OF THE JUNTA AND WILL CARRY NO WEIGHT WITH THEM. I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL AT LEAST TAKE BACK TO ARGENTINA A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FIRMNESS OF OUR POSITION.

HENDERSON

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