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③ MY TELNO 1110; FALKLANDS

1. REPORTING IN THE US PRESS CONTINUES TO BE EXTENSIVE AND MAINLY FACTUAL.

2. THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT US OFFICIALS EXPECT THE ADMINISTRATION TO TRY TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PRODUCE A DIPLOMATIC FORMULA WHICH COULD AVERT A MILITARY CLASH. OFFICIALS THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD AFFORD TO REMAIN ALOOF. THE UNITED STATES, DELIBERATELY, HAD NOT TAKEN SIDES ON THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DENOUNCED THE ARGENTINE INVASION AND URGED ARGENTINA TO REMOVE THEIR FORCES. THERE WAS A QUOTE WINDOW UNQUOTE OF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS FOR DIPLOMATIC MANOEUVRE BEFORE THE BRITISH TASK FORCE REACHED THE FALKLANDS. OFFICIALS WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED TO AVOID A CLASH BUT SAID THAT SO LONG AS BRITISH NAVAL UNITS WERE AT SEA, HEADING TOWARDS THE ISLANDS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO APPLY LEVERAGE ON ARGENTINA TO AGREE TO SOME FORMULA FOR WITHDRAWAL AND MEDIATION. THEY BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE SUPPORT FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR SUCH A SOLUTION. IF MILITARY ACTION TOOK PLACE, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A RALLYING OF SUPPORT IN LATIN AMERICA FOR ARGENTINA. BESIDES POSSIBLE OAS INVOLVEMENT, OFFICIALS MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING ANOTHER RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ORDERING ARGENTINE TROOPS TO WITHDRAW WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD AND TO SET UP SOME INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION MECHANISM. THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE DIRECT U.S. MEDIATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA, WITH ARGENTINA BEING REQUIRED TO PULL BACK ITS FORCES.

3. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PERSONAL TIES WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE TIMES NOTES, ARE THE CLOSEST WITH ANY ALLIED LEADER. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT US ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT THE INVASION AND, NOW, TO FORCE AN ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL. QUOTE WE ARE ON TRIAL IN LONDON UNQUOTE, ONE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING: IF THE US COULD NOT DELIVER, THE GOVERNMENT IN LONDON MIGHT FALL UNQUOTE. OF ALL THE EUROPEAN ALLIES THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN THE MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE US ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS INF IN EUROPE, SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

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4. THE ARTICLE NOTES THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE MILITARY JUNTA. IN THE FACE OF CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS IT PUSHED THROUGH A BILL LIFTING THE BAN ON THE SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA THAT WAS PUT INTO EFFECT UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. SO FAR, HOWEVER, NO NEW SALES HAVE BEEN MADE BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO CERTIFY TO CONGRESS THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.

5. THE COLUMNIST, SAFIRE, ATTRIBUTES THE ARGENTINE ACTION PARTLY TO THEIR INTEREST IN THE OIL POTENTIAL OF THE FALKLANDS AND THEIR DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES. THE ARGENTINE WILL NOT DESIST AT THE BEHEST OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THERE WOULD BE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR BRITAIN IN HOLDING THE FALKLANDS IF THEY WERE RECAPTURED WITHOUT ANY NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THE TASK FORCE ON ITS WAY TO THE AREA OPENED UP THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY MAJOR CRISIS, THE UNITED STATES COULD RELY ON BRITAIN AND FEW OTHERS. THE DISPUTE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF SOME ARRANGEMENT LIKE THAT FOR HONG KONG: CONTINUED BRITISH CONTROL, SOVEREIGNTY GOING TO ARGENTINA SOMETIME IN THE NEXT CENTURY.

HENDERSON

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