

GRS 260
CONFIDENTIAL
FM PARIS 121915Z OCT 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 965 OF 12 OCTOBER 1982
INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK ATHENS BRUSSELS UKREP BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG ROME DUBLIN AND BONN
INFO SAVING TO WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALS/ NO. 10, DOWNING STREET.

Prime Minister

*We are reaching the point
where decisions on tactics
are needed. I have
therefore asked the F.I.C.O.
to put recommendations to
you over the weekend.*

UKMIS NEW YORK TEL NO 1601: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A.F.C.

1. WHEN FIRST SECRETARY (CHANCERY) CALLED ON THE HEAD OF SOUTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT AT THE QUAI ON 11 OCTOBER TO TAKE ACTION ON GUIDANCE TEL NO 186 FOUQUET VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION THAT FRANCE "WILL VOTE FOR NEGOTIATIONS". FORD EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AND ASKED IF CONSIDERATIONS AT LEAST OF COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY MIGHT NOT SWAY THE FRENCH INTO FOLLOWING THE MAJORITY LINE. FOUQUET SAID THAT IF NEED BE FRANCE WOULD AGAIN BREAK RANKS AS IT DID OVER THE ARMS EMBARGO BECAUSE THE DOMINANT STRAIN IN FRENCH POLICY AT THE MOMENT WAS "THIRD WORLDISM".

2. GIVEN THIS EVIDENCE THAT THE FRENCH POSITION HAS HARDENED I ENDORSE SIR J THOMSON'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE SHOULD WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY ACT IN PARIS AND PERHAPS OTHER EC CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE ARGENTINE DRAFT AND WHY WE HOPE OUR PARTNERS WILL COOPERATE WITH US. IN TACKLING THE FRENCH I WOULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO ALLUDING TO OUR POSITION ON MAYOTTE AND THE ILES GLORIEUSES (PARA 4 OF UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 1582). WE CAN ALSO MAKE THE GENERAL POINT THAT IF THE STATUS OF THE FALKLANDS IS HELD TO BE UNCERTAIN AND A PROPER SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION AFTER 150 YEARS OF PEACEFUL ADMINISTRATION, THE STATUS OF MOST OF FRANCE'S OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS MUST BE REGARDED AS DISTINCTLY QUESTIONABLE. ONE OTHER ARGUMENT WHICH MIGHT GIVE THE FRENCH PAUSE IS THAT IF THE DEBATE AND VOTE TAKE PLACE IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 1 NOVEMBER A FRENCH VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE ARGENTINE DRAFT WOULD CAST A SHADOW OVER THE BILATERAL SUMMIT ON 4-5 NOVEMBER. I WOULD PROPOSE TO MAKE THIS POINT TO THE ELYSEE AS WELL AS THE QUAI.

FCO PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON.

FRETWELL

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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