

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
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BY LDJ NARA DATE 1/28/08

TALKING POINTS: GALTIERI

OPENING

-- IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. I HAVE BEEN
LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.

-- I HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU. AMBASSADOR WALTERS
AND JEAN KIRKPATRICK HAVE TOLD ME HOW IMPRESSED
THEY ARE WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP. I HAVE ALREADY
SEEN THE RESULTS OF YOUR INTERNATIONAL ROLE, IN
PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

-- I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER. I AM
COMMITTED TO HELP HOWEVER I CAN.

RESULTS IN LONDON

-- IN THIS SPIRIT, LET ME BE TOTALLY CANDID ABOUT WHAT
I ENCOUNTERED IN LONDON.

-- THE BRITISH SHOWED NOTHING BUT DETERMINATION TO GET
YOUR FORCES OFF THE ISLANDS.

-- THATCHER'S DEMANDS WERE CLEAR: YOU MUST WITHDRAW
BEFORE THEY WILL CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS.

-- I TOLD HER I WAS SURE YOU COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS --
AND FRANKLY I DON'T BELIEVE YOU SHOULD. THE BRITISH
POSITION IS TANTAMOUNT TO AN ULTIMATUM. BEYOND
THAT, PRIME MINISTER THATCHER HAS TAKEN THIS POSITION
PUBLICLY AND IN HER PARLIAMENT, SO ITS ABANDONMENT
WILL NOT BE EASY.

-- YOU HAVE UNIFIED YOUR COUNTRY, BUT SO HAS SHE. FROM
THE FAR LEFT TO THE FAR RIGHT, THE ENGLISH ARE READY
FOR WAR, AS I KNOW IS ARGENTINA.

GALTIERI'S CHOICES

- I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE.
- LET ME OFFER YOU MY THOUGHTS ON YOUR BASIC CHOICES, IN THE BROADEST HISTORICAL SENSE.
- HISTORY'S ASSESSMENT OF WHO PREVAILED IN THIS AFFAIR DEPENDS ON WHAT OCCURS IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.
- I BELIEVE YOU CAN EMERGE THE VICTOR. YOU CAN IMPROVE ARGENTINA'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING AND ENSURE PROSPERITY BASED ON THE ABUNDANCE GOD HAS PROVIDED THIS LAND.
- YOU CAN ENTER INTO A NEW AND FAR MORE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US. WE CAN DEVELOP COMMON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS, AS WELL AS AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. YOU WOULD BE WELCOMED IN WASHINGTON AS A FRIEND AND RECOGNIZED AS A WORLD LEADER.
- THE ALTERNATIVE, I BELIEVE, WILL BE HARSH, IN HISTORICAL TERMS.
- LET ME SPEAK WITH A FRANKNESS THAT ONLY FRIENDSHIP PERMITS, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU RESPECT THAT.
- I KNOW AND ADMIRE THE WILL AND ABILITIES OF YOUR FORCES. BUT YOU COULD SUFFER SIGNIFICANT LOSSES AND FACE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING YOUR MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD OF BRITISH ENCIRCLEMENT. A HOSTILE FLEET

MAY REMAIN OFF YOUR SHORES FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

-- THE BRITISH WILL FIND IT HARD TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES AND FIGHT AT SUCH A DISTANCE--BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE. MY SENSE IS THAT THE BRITISH PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT A LONG WAR, AS WOULD YOURS.

-- OTHERS IN THE AREA -- PERHAPS IN LEAGUE WITH THE BRITISH -- MIGHT TRY TO EXPLOIT NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT YOUR EXPENSE.

-- YOU STAND TO REVERSE RECENT ADVANCES AND TRIGGER ONCE AGAIN ISOLATION. YOU COULD FACE ECONOMIC RUIN, RESULTING FROM WAR REQUIREMENTS, LOSS OF EXPORTS, FROZEN ASSETS, LOSS OF CREDITS AND EVEN DEFAULT. THOUGH YOUR ECONOMY IS RESILIENT AND YOUR PEOPLE STRONG, THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT COULD BE DEVASTATING.

-- YOU WOULD LOSE YOUR SOURCES OF DEPENDABLE ARMS SUPPLIES FROM FRANCE, ITALY, AND OTHERS. SOME HAVE MENTIONED MOSCOW AS AN ALTERNATIVE. BUT HAVE THEY CONSIDERED THE PRICE? DO THEY WANT THE SOVIETS TO BECOME ARGENTINA'S ONLY SOLUTION? DO THEY REALIZE HOW THE SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO EXPLOIT SUCH DEPENDENCE, AS THEY HAVE ELSEWHERE? DO THEY WANT ARGENTINA TO BE SEEN AS A NEW FOOT-HOLD FOR SOVIET INFLUENCE, IF NOT PRESENCE, IN SOUTH AMERICA?

-- ARGENTINA MIGHT COME TO BE SEEN AS HAVING TORN THE OAS APART, ELIMINATING IT AS AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO COMMUNIST SUBVERSION. BORDER DISPUTES COULD TURN VIOLENT THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA-- GUAYANA, BELIZE, PERU-ECUADOR.

-- I NOW SEE THE PROMISE OF A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH US, BUT THIS PROMISE COULD BE SWEEPED AWAY. LET ME BE FRANK, IF HOSTILITIES OCCUR WE WILL COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO FAVOR THE BRITISH. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR OUR EVEN-HANDEDNESS.

-- WE VERY MUCH WANT THE SORT OF RELATIONSHIP I HAVE DESCRIBED. AND WE WANT YOU TO EMERGE STRONGER THAN EVER. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THATCHER, WHO IS A BULWARK AGAINST COMMUNISM. BUT WE ARE ALSO DETERMINED THAT YOU SUCCEED.

THE SOLUTION

-- FOR THIS REASON, WE WANT NEITHER HOSTILITIES NOR CAPITULATION TO THE BRITISH ULTIMATUM THAT YOU WITHDRAW BEFORE THEY WILL CONSIDER ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.

-- ON MY LONG FLIGHT HERE FROM LONDON, I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO BREAK THE BRITISH DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL AS A PRECONDITION.

-- I BELIEVE THE SOLUTION IS TO COME UP WITH AN INTEGRATED PACKAGE, THUS BOXING IN THE BRITISH BY ESTABLISHING THAT ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL CANNOT BE AGREED WITHOUT SIMULTANEOUS AGREEMENT ON OTHER KEY, RELATED ELEMENTS.

-- I HAVE IN MIND THE FOLLOWING PACKAGE, WHICH WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN ITS TOTALITY.

-- FIRST, BOTH SIDES WOULD AGREE TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES IN A FIXED PERIOD. THUS, THE BRITISH WOULD HAVE TO KEEP THEIR FLEET AWAY IN RESPONSE TO YOUR AGREEMENT TO MOVE YOUR FORCES BACK TO THE MAINLAND.

-- SECOND, A DEMILITARIZED ZONE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THIS WOULD KEEP THE BRITISH FROM MOVING FORCES TO THE ISLANDS, AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO ANTE FROM YOUR STANDPOINT.

-- THIRD, AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM WOULD BE INSTALLED ON THE ISLANDS. IT COULD INCLUDE THE US, CANADA, AND TWO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SPANISH-SPEAKING LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THIS UMBRELLA WOULD PERMIT A CLEAR CHANGE IN THE GOVERNING ARRANGEMENT ON THE ISLANDS IN THE DIRECTION OF AUTONOMY, AND WOULD PROVIDE FOR AN ARGENTINE ROLÉ.

-- FOURTH, THERE WOULD BE A JOINT COMMITMENT TO EXPEDITE NEGOTIATIONS TO DETERMINE THE ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THE ISLANDS. THE CONSORTIUM WOULD MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

-- AS YOU CAN SEE, EACH ELEMENT IS RELATED TO THE OTHERS, THUS EXPOSING THE BRITISH INSISTENCE THAT WITHDRAWAL IS A PRECONDITION AS UNREASONABLE AND UNWORKABLE.

-- IN ITS TOTALITY, THE PACKAGE PROVIDES FOR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FROM THE STATUS QUO ANTE. IT WOULD BE A CLEAR SUCCESS FOR YOU.

-- YOU WILL HAVE BROUGHT WORLD ATTENTION TO YOUR CASE AND INTERNATIONALIZED THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

-- YOU WILL HAVE STOPPED THE BRITISH FLEET.

-- AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU WILL HAVE AVOIDED A WAR.

-- I AM NOT TERRIBLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE BRITISH WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THIS. BUT WE MUST MAKE THE EFFORT.

-- LET ME PROPOSE THAT WHILE I AM HERE WE TRY TO CRAFT A PIECE OF PAPER ALONG THE LINES I'VE DESCRIBED. I WOULD THEN TAKE IT TO LONDON AND PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH TO ACCEPT.

-- IF I CAN PRESENT THEM WITH A PROPOSAL FOR PEACE
THAT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED, IT WILL BE CLEAR THAT THEY
WILL BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF
REJECTION.

-- I BELIEVE I HAVE OFFERED AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY
TO SHOW YOUR COURAGE AND TO DELIVER YOUR COUNTRY
INTO A NEW ERA. I CAN OFFER NO ASSURANCE OF
SUCCESS, BUT I WILL SPARE NO EFFORT.