

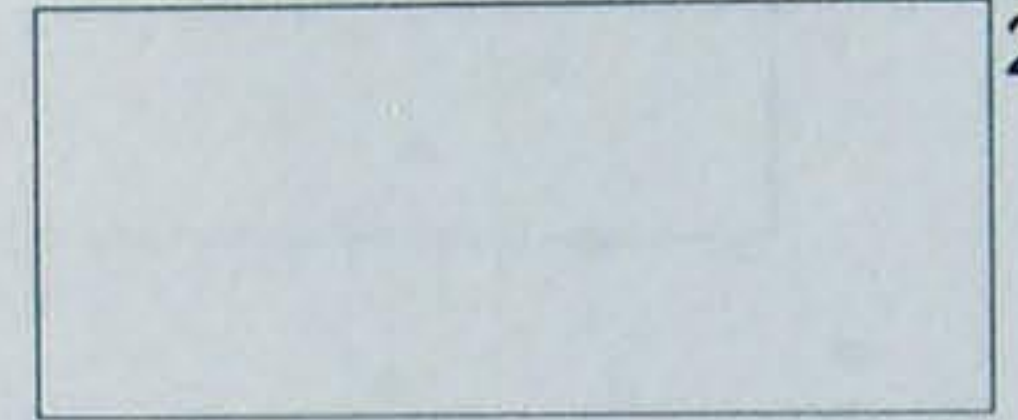


Director of
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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

20 May 1982

Top Secret

CPAS NIDC 82-118C

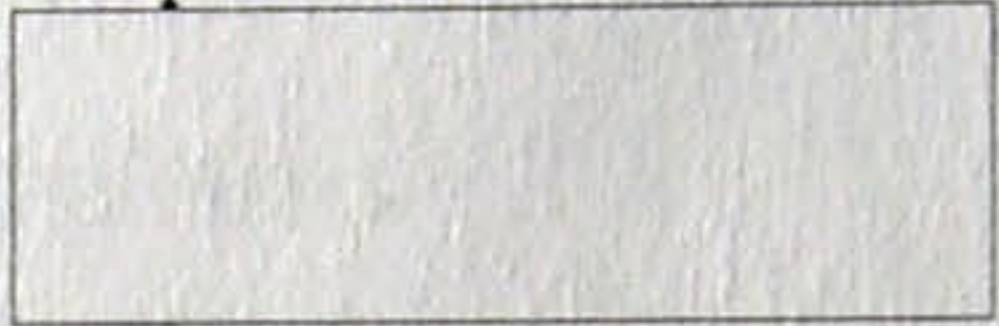
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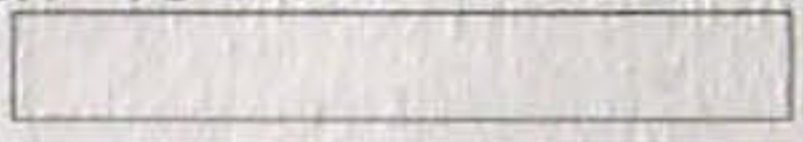


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UK-ARGENTINA: Argentines Await Assault

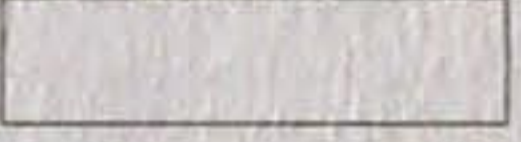
(Information as of 2300 EDT)

//Little military activity was reported yesterday, and both sides apparently continued preparations for an imminent military showdown. The mood in both capitals was somber as it became apparent that eleventh-hour UN diplomatic efforts were not yielding any positive results. The Argentine military leadership reportedly remains unwavering, believing that military defeat is more honorable than an unsatisfactory negotiated settlement.//



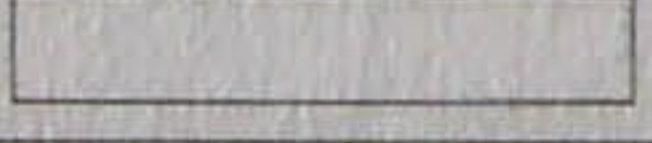
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//British Sea Harrier aircraft attacked the airfield at Port Stanley yesterday, according to Argentina's military command. No results were reported. The 20 Harrier aircraft brought to the Falklands area on a container ship reportedly have been transferred to the British aircraft carriers.//



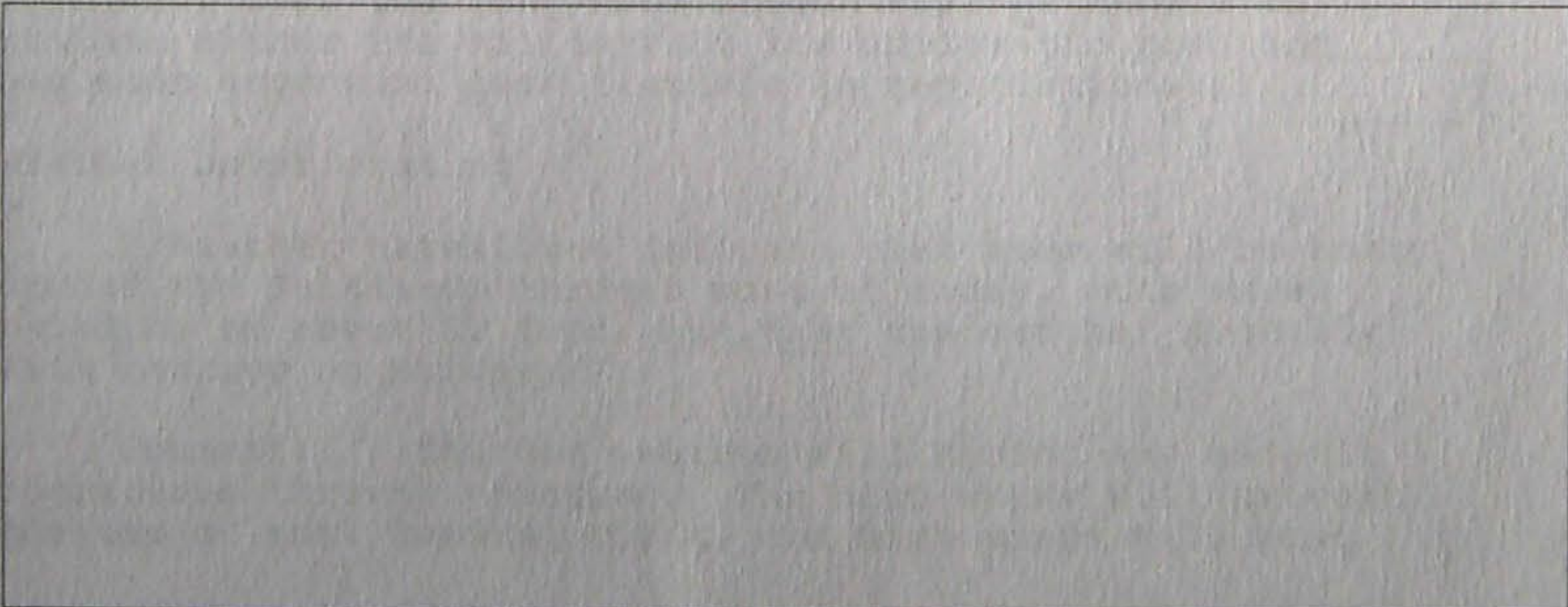
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Comment: //The British are attempting to locate Argentine troop concentrations and to soften up the garrison on the Falklands prior to an attack. Thus far, recent bombings and shellings appear to have caused only minimal damage. The Harriers that have been transferred to the carriers are now available to provide air cover and close air support for assault forces. The British probably had to transfer the helicopters that have been on the carriers to other ships to make space for the new aircraft, which join 17 Sea Harriers already operating with the fleet.//

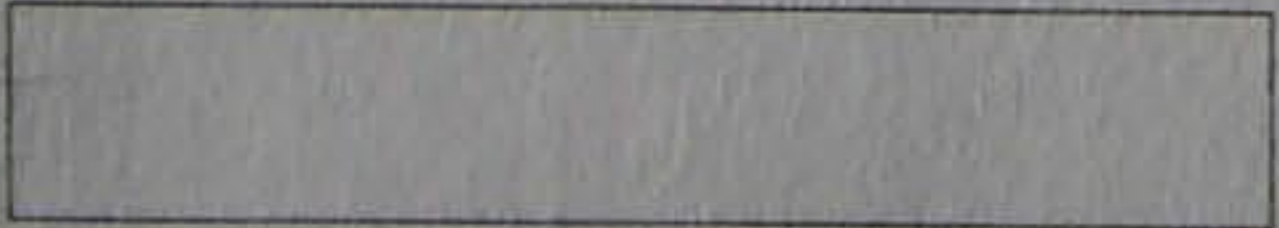


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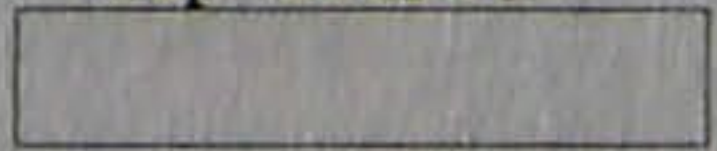
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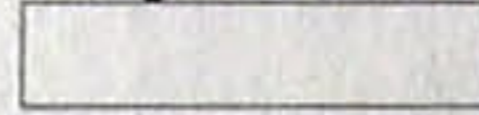
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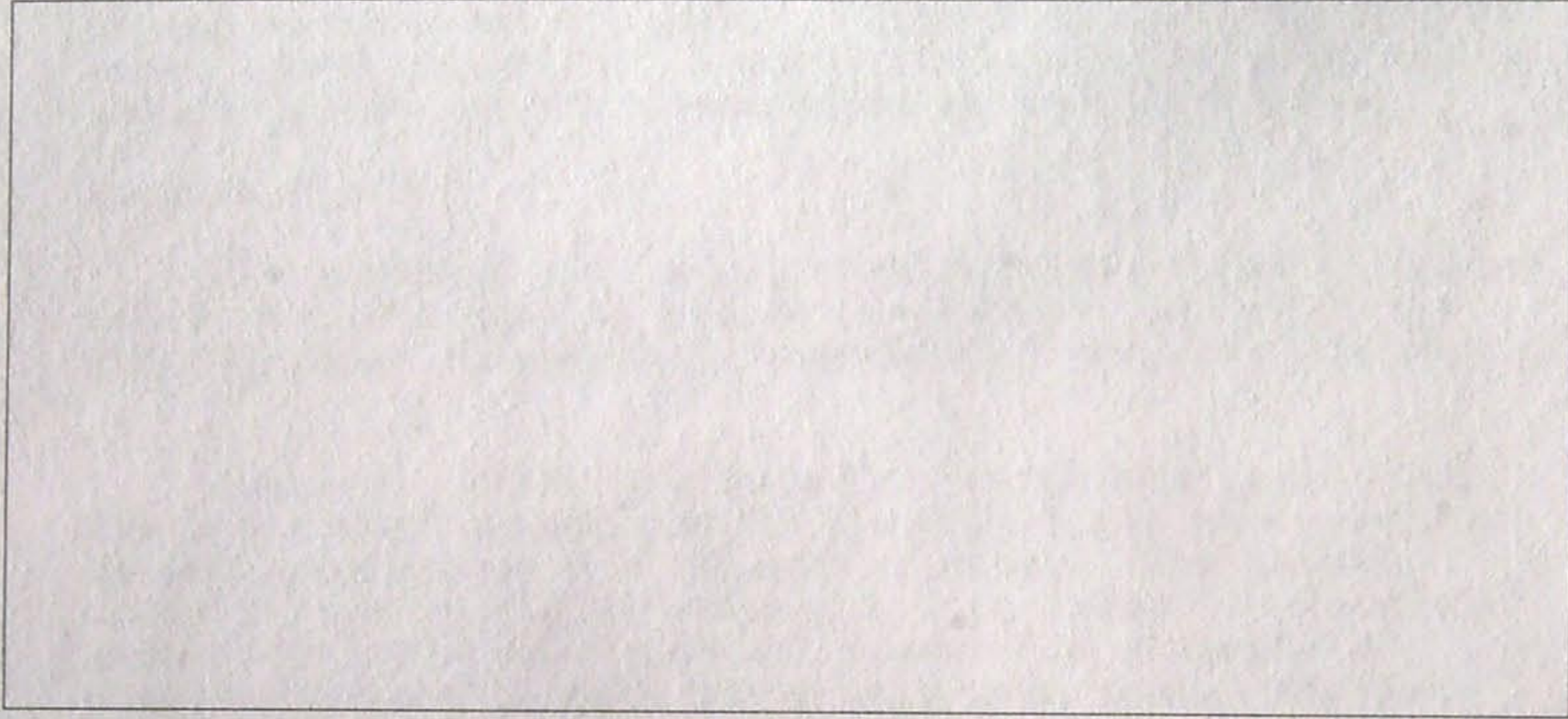
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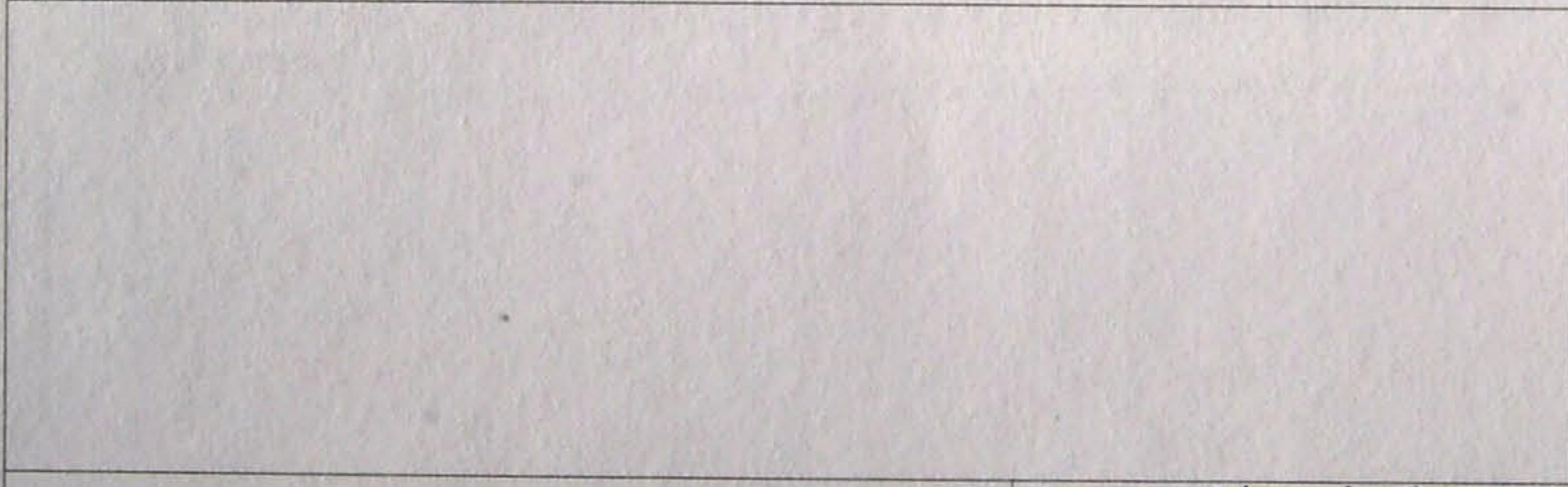


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Argentine Military Leadership Unwavering



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Buenos Aires's belief that over the long term London will be unable to sustain either its military or its diplomatic position has made Argentina less flexible in negotiations.//

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Weather Deteriorating

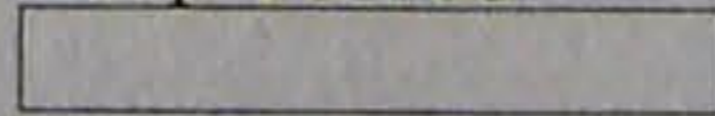
//Weather satellites indicate that seas will be heavy around the Falklands through most of today, with waves building to about 20 feet, but that the weather probably will improve on Friday.//

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Comment: //The bad weather will hinder any assault operations through tomorrow. The high waves will prevent the use of most landing craft, and high winds will make

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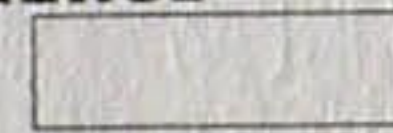
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flying helicopters hazardous. If the British can operate under these conditions, however, they will be less vulnerable to Argentine air power based on the mainland.//



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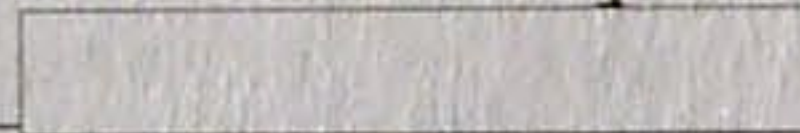
Mood in the UK

//Parliament will again consider the Falkland dispute today, but the mood in the UK is somber. An attack on the Falklands is generally expected in the next few days.//

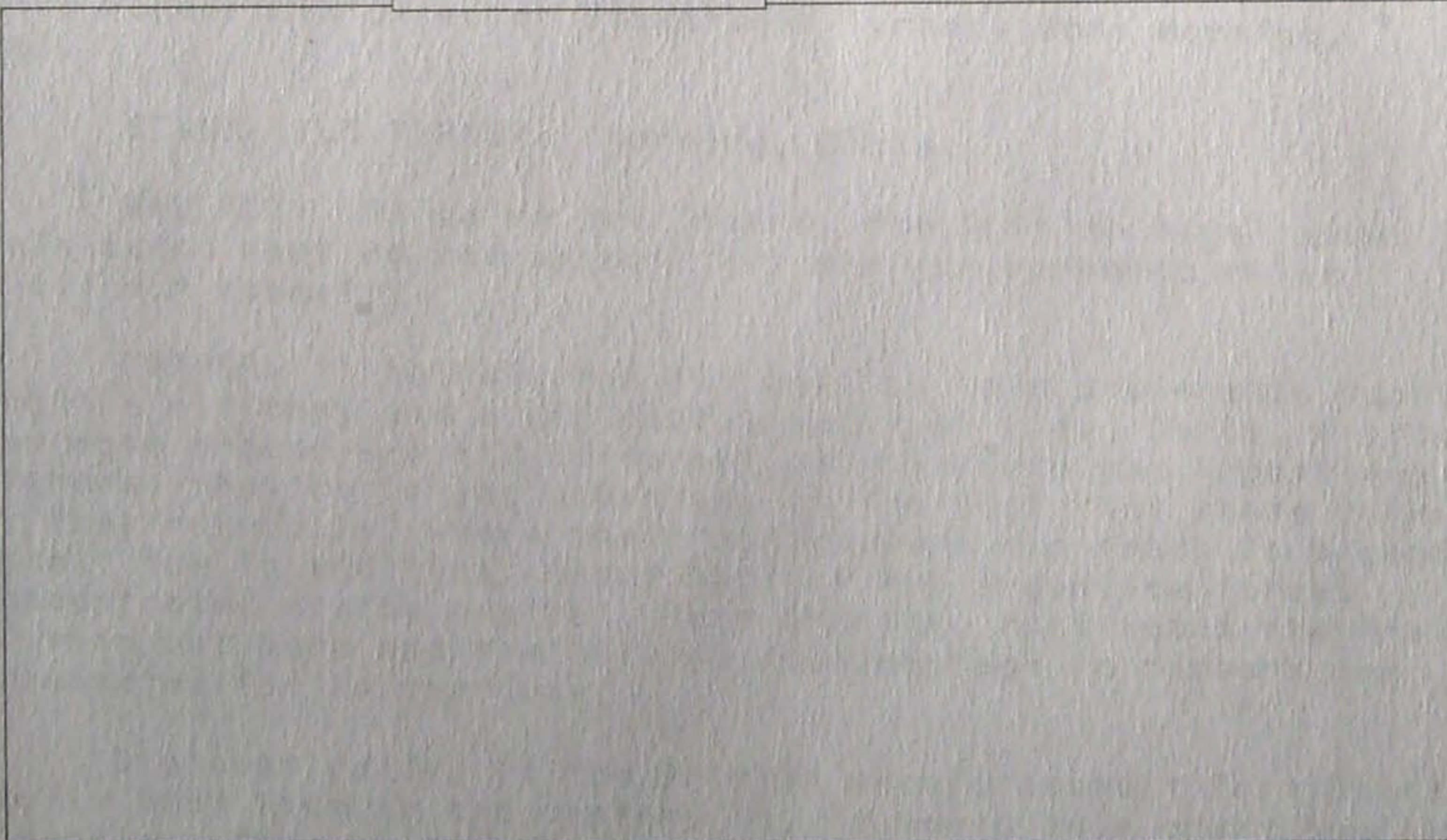


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Comment: //The parliamentary consensus supporting the government's handling of the crisis may be weakening as the prospect of a settlement recedes. The debate today will give the government a last chance to convince opposition moderates that all reasonable attempts to achieve a peaceful settlement have been made. Thatcher will not be willing to make any concessions, however, either by including the opposition in government councils or by engaging in obviously futile negotiations with the Argentines.//



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