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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8736

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065: RDS-1 4/6/12 (STREATOR, E.J.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, AR, UK, US
SUBJ: FALKLANDS DISPUTE: A FEW SUGGESTIONS

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WITH THE FLEET UNDERWAY, THE CHANCES ARE HIGH THAT THE
BRITISH WILL USE IT ONCE THEY REACH THE SOUTH ATLANTIC --
IF A FACE-SAVING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IS NOT LAUNCHED.

B1

4. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST, OF COURSE, TO KEEP THE
ARGENTINES AND THE BRITISH FROM COMING TO BLOWS. OPTIMALLY,
WE WILL SUCCEED IN A WAY THAT MAINTAINS OUR CREDIBILITY AND
DECENT RELATIONS WITH BOTH SIDES. BUT REALISTICALLY, IF
WE INTERCEDE, WE MAY BREAK SOME CROCKERY WITH BOTH SIDES.

B1

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6. HMG NOW IS FOCUSING ON THE NEED FOR HELP FROM FRIENDS -- INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES -- TO BRING MAXIMUM PRES-SURE TO BEAR ON ARGENTINA.

B1

[REDACTED] THE BEST TACTICS FOR DEALING WITH THESE REQUESTS, IT SEEMS TO US, WILL BE:

-- TO SAY WE MUST REMAIN CREDIBLE AS MEDIATORS; AND NOT SAY THAT WE ATTACK EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO BOTH SIDES (AN APPROACH THAT WILL INFURIATE THE BRITISH).

-- TO PRESS THE BRITISH TO STATE CLEARLY THEIR DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY OBJECTIVES AND TO SET OUT A TOTAL PACKAGE OF REQUESTS (THEREBY FORCING THEM TO THINK THROUGH THEIR STRATEGY IN A WAY THEY HAVE NOT DONE YET; GIVING US A LIST OF REQUESTS FROM WHICH WE CAN CHOOSE; AND THUS DIS-COURAGING THEM FROM COMING TO US DAILY FOR MORE).

7. ABOVE ALL, WE RECOMMEND THE U.S. PUT FORWARD SOON A DRAMATIC PROPOSAL FOR TALKS THAT CAN AT LEAST BUY TIME. WE HAVE NO RABBIT TO SUGGEST.

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[REDACTED]

PRESENTATION WILL BE IMPORTANT. THE FALKLANDS ARE A SEARING POLITICAL ISSUE IN BRITAIN. AND WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S FUTURE AT STAKE, AND BUREAUCRACY SHAKEN, WE SUGGEST IT WILL BE BEST TO JUMP TRADITIONAL CHANNELS AND GO RIGHT TO THE TOP WITH A PROPOSAL MRS. THATCHER HERSELF CAN JUDGE POLITICALLY. STREATOR

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