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UNCLASSIFIED

FM BUENOS AIRES 31/1740Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 129 OF 31 MARCH 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

SOUTH GEORGIA : ARGENTINE PRESS TREATMENT

1. YESTERDAY'S VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL BUENOS AIRES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES (REPORTED SEPARATELY) STEALS THE HEADLINES AND COMMENTARIES IN MOST NEWSPAPERS TODAY, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH GEORGIA INCIDENT REMAINS ON THE FRONT PAGES.

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S STATEMENT IN THE LORDS IS WIDELY REPORTED - SOME NEWSPAPERS CARRY FULL TEXTS - AS ARE THE FURTHER PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES IN BOTH HOUSES. THE MORE POPULAR PRESS GIVES GREATER PROMINENCE TO REPORTS THAT A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE HAS BEEN DESPATCHED TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FROM GIBRALTAR, WITH A SECOND L LIKELY TO FOLLOW. OTHER NEWSPAPERS QUOTE ON THEIR INSIDE PAGES REPORTS THAT THE DESTROYER EXETER IS ALSO ON ITS WAY TO THE AREA FROM BELIZE AND THAT A RFA TANKER IS SAILING TOWARDS THE FALKLANDS.

3. AT THIS END, THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER IS WIDELY QUOTED AS TELLING REPORTERS THAT ARGENTINA WILL NOT GIVE WAY TO THREATS OF FORCE, AND THAT THE GROUP ON SOUTH GEORGIA ARE QUOTE Q ARGENTINE WORKERS WORKING ON ARGENTINE SOIL, WHICH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO NORMALLY UNDER GOVERNMENT PROTECTION UNQUOTE. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT SOUTH GEORGIA WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY THE US AMBASSADOR IN A CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER YESTERDAY.

4. IT IS ALSO REPORTED, WITHOUT GREAT PROMINENCE, THAT A SMALL GROUP OF YOUTHS BURNED THE CHILEAN AND BRITISH FLAGS IN BUENOS AIRES YESTERDAY.

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WILLIAMS

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