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RESIDENT CLERK

(2) Valid 5/4)

PS No. 10 DOWNING ST.

PS/CHANCELLOR
SIR K COUZENS
MR LITTLER
MR HAWTIN
MR PERETZ
MR ILETT
MR MCINTYRE

H.M. Toy

Miss DICKSON (BIP DIV) D/En

DIO CABINET OFFICE

Mr Wade-Gery Cabinet Office

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IMMEDIATE

ISB/FCO 002/10

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GRS 465

UNCLASSIFIED

FM BRASILIA 101300Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO. 085 OF 10 APRIL 82

FROM LONGRIGG

FALKLANDS: FURTHER PRESS COMMENT

1. THE JORNAL DO BRASIL OF 9 APRIL CARRIES ANOTHER EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICAL OF ARGENTINE ACTIONS. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS:

"..... EVERYTHING HAS THEREFORE COME TO DEPEND ON THE REMARCHES OF SECRETARY HAIG - WHICH SHOULD BE SUPPORTED UNCONDITIONALLY PROSPECTS ARE THUS GLOOMY: WE ARE ON THE EDGE OF A CONFRONTATION. THE FACT THAT A POWERFUL FLEET WAS READY TO SAIL AFTER ONLY 5 DAYS PREPARATION WHEN THE NORMAL TIME FOR AN OPERATION OF SUCH SCOPE IS USUALLY MUCH GREATER IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF ENGLISH INTENTIONS.

THE MORE AN OPERATION OF SUCH SCOPE IS USUALLY MUCH GREATER IS
A CLEAR INDICATION OF ENGLISH INTENTIONS.

"IN COMMITTING AN ACT WHICH GOES CONTRARY TO ALL THE NORMS OF
INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOUR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WHICH TOOK
POWER SO RECENTLY, REVEALS ITS UNDISGUISED WISH TO DROWN
INTERNAL CONFLICTS IN A GREAT WAVE OF PATRIOTISM. BUT IT HAS
NOT PAID SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE CONSERVATIVE
GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND IS FACING SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS AS
WELL, AND THAT THE SIMPLE GOADING OF AN IMPLACABLE OPPOSITION
DOES NOT LEAVE MRS THATCHER A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS. IT IS
A QUESTION OF TWO GOVERNMENTS PLAYING FOR THEIR SURVIVAL -
AN EXTREME CONTINGENCY PROVOKED BY ARGENTINE AGGRESSION.

....."IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE
FACT THAT THERE TOOK PLACE A VIOLENT ACTION - AND THAT ANY
POSSIBILITY OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS DEPENDS
ON THE FACT THAT ACCEPTABLE SATISFACTION IS GIVEN TO THE COUNTRY
THAT SUFFERED THE ACTION - IN THIS CASE ENGLAND.

"THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF ARGENTINA DEMONSTRATES
THAT IN MORE THAN ONE SENSE THIS FACT IS ALREADY RECOGNISED.
IF ARGENTINA HAD ANY RIGHT TO JUSTIFY ITS ACT OF FORCE, IT
WOULD NOT NOW BE ISOLATED AS IT IS. THE POSSIBILITY THAT
ARGENTINA COULD INVOKE IN ITS DEFENCE THE RIO TREATY IS FADING
AWAY; AND THIS MEANS SIMPLY THAT ARGENTINA CANNOT MAKE USE OF
THE NATURAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE DEFENCE OF COUNTRIES OF THE
CONTINENT. AND IT CANNOT, BECAUSE IT WAS, IN THIS CASE, THE
AGGRESSOR.

"THE FALKLANDS QUESTION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT ONLY INTEREST
ARGENTINA AND ENGLAND. BRAZIL MUST BE PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE
TO THE DEFENCE OF ITS INTERESTS AND TO PROTECT THESE INTERESTS
SHE CANNOT CULTIVATE THE ILLUSION THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO PLEASE
EVERYONE BY MEANS OF A REAL OR FICTICIOUS OMISSION. THERE

ARE PRINCIPLES WHICH MUST BE DEFENDED AT ALL COST. SUCH AS THAT
THE SOLUTION OF REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT
BRING ABOUT A RECOURSE TO FORCE."

"SECRETARY HAIG IS MAKING A WORTHWHILE ATTEMPT AT NEGOTIATIONS.
BUT TIME IS VERY SHORT. AND FOR HAIG TO HAVE ANY POSSIBILITY
OF SUCCESS IT MUST BE LEFT CLEAR THAT ON THE FALKLANDS QUESTION
ARGENTINA HAS ACTED AS THE AGGRESSOR COUNTRY, WHICH GIVES
ENGLAND THE MORAL RIGHT TO DEMAND REPARATION."

HARDING