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- 8 FEB 1982		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr Chase
 This is presumably the article Hugh O'Shaughnessy referred to. I would guess it reflects fairly high-level briefing by the MFA & reinforces our view that New York will be tough. The concept of an invasion for the good of the Islanders is bizarre, but it might be the sort of self-justification which would appeal to the Argentines.
 4/2 *Chase*

REF: 00/14

U CLASSIFIED

TELETYPE

PPS 1511

TO :

FOI

U CLASSIFIED

FILE/REF :

310/402/1

DATE : 3 FEBRUARY 1982

FOLLOWED BY :

C/O BRIGHT ESC, SAIG, FOI

COPY (BY SAIG) :

C/O GROVETT ESC, PORT STANLEY

FROM :

C/O HICKSON, BRITISH EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

BACKGROUND: ARTICLE IN LA PRENSA

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE BY THE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED JOURNALIST IGLESIAS ROUCCO WHICH APPEARED IN LA PRENSA ON 24 JANUARY UNDER THE HEADLINE QUOTE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFENSIVE UNQUOTE.

BEHIND:

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY PRESENT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH A SERIES OF CONDITIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE MALVINAS, AND IF LONDON DOES NOT ACCEPT THEM BUENOS AIRES WILL IMMEDIATELY BREAK OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THESE CONDITIONS, WHICH APPARENTLY ARE STILL IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATION, WILL BE QUOTE FIRM AND CLEAR UNQUOTE, AND WILL SET VERY PRECISE TIMELIMITS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND THE FINAL RETURN OF THE ISLANDS TO ARGENTINE, A PROPOSITION WHICH GREAT BRITAIN WILL HAVE TO RECOGNISE EXPLICITLY. HOWEVER WHEN THEY WILL ALSO ESTABLISH THE ORDER OF SUBJECTS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE TALKS.

IN MARCH ATTENDERS, ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, WILL BE VISITING BUENOS AIRES, AND
UNDOUBTEDLY THIS QUESTION WILL TAKE A PROMINENT PLACE IN HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH SR COSTA MENDEZ. AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED,
IT IS BELIEVED IN BOTH THE USA AND IN EUROPE THAT IF THE FORTHCOMING
ARGENTINE ATTEMPT TO QUOTE CLARIFY UNQUOTE THE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH LONDON FAILS, BUENOS AIRES WILL RECOVER THE ISLANDS BY FORCE
THIS YEAR. NATURALLY, SILENCE IS BEING MAINTAINED HERE, BUT
ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT HAVE FORESEEN THIS ALTERNATIVE,
A MILITARY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE CANNOT BE RULED OUT WHEN
SOVEREIGNTY IS AT STAKE. MOREOVER, IT IS CALCULATED THAT SUCH AN
OPERATION WILL BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE IN VIEW OF THE SCANT MILITARY
RESOURCES OF THE ISLANDS (TODAY NOT MUCH MORE THAN 30 ARMED MEN),
AND OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH IT COULD BRING FOR THE ISLANDERS,
SINCE BUENOS AIRES IS APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY DISSENT
AND TO COMPENSATE THEM GENEROUSLY FOR ANY ECONOMIC INCONVENIENCE
WHICH THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BRING. AS FOR GREAT
BRITAIN, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MIGHT BE COMPLETELY
FROZEN UNQUOTE FOR A TIME, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF WESTERN STRATEGY
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE FOR LONG.
THE MALVINAS AND THE BEAGLE, PERHAPS WITH JOINT BASES THANKS TO A
SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY, WOULD THUS BECOME THE TWO KEY POINTS IN THE
DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE OF THE REGION.

BUT THE PLANS FOR THE BEAGLE AND THE MALVINAS, ACCORDING TO OUR
SOURCES, WILL NOT IMPEDE ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE QUOTE
NON-ALIGNED UNQUOTE GROUP OF COUNTRIES. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ALREADY STARTED TO ANALYSE THIS SUBJECT, AND
ONLY SECOND OR THIRD RANK OFFICIALS WILL BE SENT TO FORTHCOMING
MEETINGS OF THE GROUP. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WILL TAKE
PLACE BEFORE THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE, PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER.
NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS STILL STRONG RESISTANCE TO THIS PLAN IN
CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE QUOTE PROCESO UNQUOTE.

THIS PLAN IS NO DOUBT LINKED WITH THE DECISIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN CONCERNING THE BEAGLE CHANNEL, WHICH HAVE JUST CRYSTALISED IN THE REPLACEMENT OF MONCAYO BY ORTIZ DE ROSAS, THE DENUNCIATION OF THE 1978 TREATY, AND THE DESPATCH OF A DOCUMENT TO THE VATICAN SETTING OUT ARGENTINA'S MINIMUM ASPIRATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION. THESE ASPIRATIONS MAY BE SUMMARISED AS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SO-CALLED BI-OCEANIC PRINCIPLE, COMPLETE AND ENTIRE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ATLANTIC COAST AND IN THE SOUTH SEA OF URGUAY UNQUOTE, AND HER TAXABLE PRESENCE ON THE ISLANDS IN THE BEAGLE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD GIVE HER JURISDICTIONAL SECURITY IN JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, THAT IS TO SAY, OVER AT LEAST 100 MILES OUT TO SEA.

OBVIOUSLY, BY CONNECTING THE MALVINAS SITUATION WITH THAT OF THE BEAGLE, THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE READY TO CARRY FORWARD AN AMBITIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH WOULD ASSURE THE COUNTRY OF A RELEVANT ROLE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AS MUCH IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS IN GEO-POLITICAL AND MILITARY ONES. THE FACT THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE INITIATED A KIND OF DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC REVEALS THAT THIS PLAN IS BEING TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

LONDON'S SYSTEMATICALLY DILATORY ATTITUDE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED NO SATISFACTION FOR ARGENTINA'S JUST CLAIMS, WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, BUT ALSO HAS FAILED TO SATISFY THE NEED FOR WESTERN CONCERTATION IN THE DEFENCE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND ACCESS ROUTES TO THE SOUTH POLE, WHICH ARE TODAY THE OBJECT OF INCESSANT SOVIET PENETRATION. THIS, IN TABLING CONDITIONS AND DEFINITE TIME LIMITS TO OVERCOME THE QUOTE IMPASSE UNQUOTE, BUT OS WIPES IS APPARENTLY SEEKING SOMETHING MORE THAN THE RECOVERY OF A PORTION OF HER SOVEREIGNTY. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, WASHINGTON WILL NOT DO IT IN THIS WAY, AND HENCE THE SUPPORT WHICH IT HAS REPORTEDLY PROMISED FOR QUOTE ANY ACTION UNQUOTE LEADING TO RECOVERY OF THE ISLANDS, NOT EXCLUDING MILITARY ACTION.

PERHAPS COSTA MENDEZ WILL TALK ABOUT THIS WITH SR CARLOS
QUERREIRO DURING HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH.
BRAZIL IS SEEKING TO BECOME LEADER OF THE THIRD WORLD AND IS
MOREOVER SHOWING INTEREST IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. SHE THEREFORE COULD
BECOME A POWERFUL ALLY FOR ARGENTINA'S PLANS. THE SAME IS APPLICABLE
IN THE FIELD OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE USA. THE LIMITATIONS
AND EVEN PROHIBITIONS RECENTLY IMPOSED BY WASHINGTON ON IMPORTS OF
ARGENTINE PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY SUGAR, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED HERE WITH
ANXIETY, AND CONSEQUENTLY IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT COSTA MENDEZ
WILL PROPOSE TO HIS COLLEAGUE A COMMON FRONT AGAINST AMERICAN
ECONOMIC PRESSURE.

TO SUM UP: ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY IS APPARENTLY BEING
CHANNELED ALONG VERY REASONABLE LINES, AND SR COSTA MENDEZ IS
SHOWING HIMSELF DETERMINED TO GIVE IT THE IMPETUS AND ABILITY WHICH
IT HAS LACKED FOR THE PAST DECADE. IF WE REMEMBER THE SERIOUSNESS
OF THE BEAGLE AND THE MALVINAS IN THE LIFE OF ARGENTINA, IT
IS EASY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS ABOUT TO TRANSFORM
ITSELF INTO ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS OF POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC PLANNING OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

ENDS.

SIGNED : M. HICKSON

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BAFO 322/84

UNCLASSIFIED

TELELETTER

GRS 1543

TO

:

FCO

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE/REF

:

302/492/1

DATE : 3 FEBRUARY 1982

FOLLOWING FOR

:

C C BRIGHT ESQ, SAMD, FCO

COPY (BY BAG)

:

M W GROWCOTT ESQ, PORT STANLEY

FROM

:

M HICKSON, BRITISH EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

FALKLANDS:ARTICLE IN LA PRENSA

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THIS PLAN IS NO DOUBT LINKED WITH THE DECISIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN CONCERNING THE BEAGLE CHANNEL, WHICH HAVE JUST CRYSTALISED IN THE REPLACEMENT OF MONCAYO BY ORTIZ DE ROZAS, THE DENUNCIATION OF THE 1972 TREATY, AND THE DESPATCH OF A DOCUMENT TO THE VATICAN SETTING OUT ARGENTINA'S MINIMUM ASPIRATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION. THESE ASPIRATIONS MAY BE SUMMARISED AS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SO-CALLED BI-OCEANIC PRINCIPLE, COMPLETE ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ATLANTIC COAST AND IN THE QUOTE SEA OF PEACE UNQUOTE, AND HER TANGIBLE PRESENCE ON THE ISLANDS IN THE BEAGLE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD GIVE HER JURIDICAL SECURITY IN HER JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, THAT IS TO SAY, OVER AT LEAST 188 MILES OUT TO SEA.

OBVIOUSLY, BY CONNECTING THE MALVINAS SITUATION WITH THAT OF THE BEAGLE, THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE READY TO CARRY FORWARD AN AMBITIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH WOULD ASSURE THE COUNTRY OF A RELEVANT ROLE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AS MUCH IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS IN GEO-POLITICAL AND MILITARY ONES. THE FACT THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE INITIATED A KIND OF DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC REVEALS THAT THIS PLAN IS BEING TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

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IN MARCH MR ENDERS, ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, WILL BE VISITING BUENOS AIRES, AND UNDOUBT-ABLY THIS QUESTION WILL TAKE A PROMINENT PLACE IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SR COSTA MENDEZ. AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED, IT IS BELIEVED IN BOTH THE USA AND IN EUROPE THAT IF THE FORTHCOMING ARGENTINE ATTEMPT TO QUOTE CLARIFY UNQUOTE THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LONDON FAILS, BUENOS AIRES WILL RECOVER THE ISLANDS BY FORCE THIS YEAR. NATURALLY, SILENCE IS BEING MAINTAINED HERE, BUT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT HAVE FORESEEN THIS ALTERNATIVE, A MILITARY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE CANNOT BE RULED OUT WHEN SOVEREIGNTY IS AT STAKE. MOREOVER, IT IS CALCULATED THAT SUCH AN OPERATION WILL BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE IN VIEW OF THE SCANT MILITARY RESOURCES OF THE ISLANDS (TODAY NOT MUCH MORE THAN 35 ARMED MEN), AND OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH IT COULD BRING FOR THE INHABITANTS, SINCE BUENOS AIRES IS APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY BLOODSHED AND TO COMPENSATE THEM GENEROUSLY FOR ANY ECONOMIC INCONVENIENCE WHICH THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BRING. AS FOR GREAT BRITAIN, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MIGHT BE QUOTE FROZEN UNQUOTE FOR A TIME, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF WESTERN STRATEGY IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE FOR LONG. THE MALVINAS AND THE BEAGLE, PERHAPS WITH JOINT BASES THANKS TO A SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY, WOULD THUS BECOME THE TWO KEY POINTS IN THE DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE OF THE REGION.

BUT THE PLANS FOR THE BEAGLE AND THE MALVINAS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, WILL NOT IMPEDE ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE QUOTE NON-ALIGNED UNQUOTE GROUP OF COUNTRIES. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ALREADY STARTED TO ANALYSE THIS SUBJECT, AND ONLY SECOND OR THIRD RANK OFFICIALS WILL BE SENT TO FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE GROUP. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE, PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS STILL STRONG RESISTENCE TO THIS PLAN IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE QUOTE PROCESO UNQUOTE.

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ENDS.

SIGNED : M HICKSON

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SENT/RECD AT 04/1145Z JDG/MD