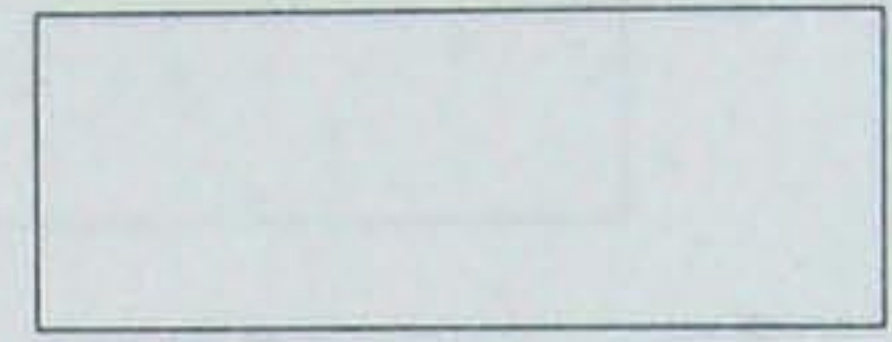




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

24 April 1982

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CPAS NIDC 82-096C

24 April 1982

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ARGENTINA-UK: Disappointing Diplomatic Progress

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[Redacted] Buenos Aires is encountering difficulty in gaining diplomatic backing for its position in the crisis.// [Redacted]

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Prime Minister Thatcher indicated yesterday that the British considered the South Georgias a separate possession from the Falkland Islands. Few, if any, Argentine forces are believed to be on the South Georgia Islands. British forces probably could occupy them at any time, but London may be awaiting the results of the latest negotiations before deciding to act.// [Redacted]

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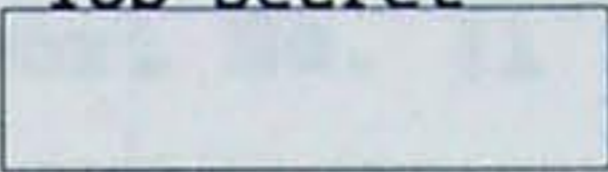
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1. US Response: A usually well informed Argentine newspaper remarked today that the civilian/military working group in Buenos Aires studying the proposal decided "unanimously" that it is "unacceptable". Other Argentine media play the same theme. Speaking in Parliament today, British PM Thatcher praised Secretary Haig's efforts, but accused Argentina of intransigence, adding "the way to peace is in the hands of the Argentine government".

2. Situation in Argentina: Reuters reports that Argentina's military governor of the Falklands last night ordered a dusk to dawn curfew and blackout on the islands, saying "British attack could come 'at any moment'". The Junta also issued a communique asking for calm. Despite scattered threats, there have been no incidents of anti-British violence and only a low level of anti-British rhetoric.

3. US Critics: High-level members of the Argentine military have accused our Embassy in Buenos Aires that the US will do everything possible to pass to the Argentines the Falklands and advise that they leave prior to the establishment of the "total exclusion" zone on Friday. The Argentines also committed themselves to helping those who wish to leave the islands.

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British Domestic Support

//London moved yesterday to brace the public for the possible outbreak of fighting. The announcement of the increased readiness of the task force and Thatcher's visit to the naval command center emphasized the government's preparedness for military action. Recent polls have shown increased public approval of the government's performance in the crisis as well as improved Tory standing in relation to other parties.//

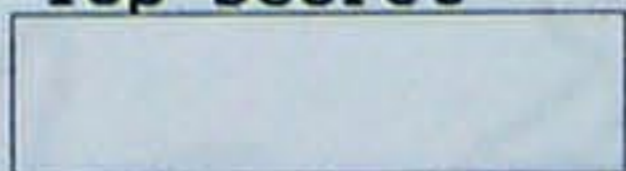
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Comment: //The moves yesterday probably will reinforce the government's position. Unless there is a breakthrough in negotiations, however, Thatcher will be expected to follow through by taking South Georgia or by extending control of the approaches to the Falklands within several days.//

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