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IN THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS...."

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6. TO DATE, THE BEST STATEMENT OF US POLICY IS CONTAINED IN THE PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR OCTOBER 31, WHICH FOLLOWS. THE MAIN POINT TO REMEMBER IS THAT WE SHOULD STRIVE TO KEEP OURSELVES OUT OF THE MIDDLE ON THIS ISSUE AND INSTEAD SETTLE FOR QUIETLY URGING BOTH COUNTRIES TO SEEK TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE PEACEFULLY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

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BEGIN TEXT: ARGENTINE/U.K.: FALKLANDS/MALVINAS FISHING DISPUTE

OP INMED  
DE RUEHC #2795 3050523  
O #18021Z NOV 86 ZEK  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION CONCERNING THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OVER FISHING RIGHTS IN THE AREA OF THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS ISLANDS?

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

A: WE HOPE THERE WILL BE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTION BY EITHER COUNTRY. WE HAVE CONSIDERATELY URGED BOTH COUNTRIES TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS. WE KNOW THAT BOTH COUNTRIES AGREE ON THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF THE FISHERY RESOURCES.

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 9815

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THE AREA IN QUESTION IS ONE OF THE FEW UNREGULATED FISHING AREAS REMAINING IN THE WORLD. THERE IS A STUDY UNDERWAY ON THE DEPLETION OF FISHING RESOURCES BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO). WE HOPE THAT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER CONCERNED NATIONS, THROUGH SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS THE FAO, AND WITH THE COOPERATION OF ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, A REGIME WILL BE ADOPTED THAT SERVES THE COMMON INTEREST. END TEXT. WRITEREAD  
BT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PRTS, PRL, AR  
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE ON FALKLANDS/MALVINAS FISHING DISPUTE

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BACKGROUND FOR FALKLANDS/MALVINAS FISHING DISPUTE: ON OCTOBER 29, UK FOREIGN SECRETARY ROWE NOTIFIED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200 NAUTICAL MILE INTERIM FISHING CONSERVATION ZONE AROUND THE FALKLAND/MALVINAS ISLANDS. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE STRICT ENFORCEMENT WITHIN 150 NAUTICAL MILES OF THE ARCHIPELAGO BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 1987 (THE BEGINNING OF THE SOUP FISHING SEASON). ROWE ALSO SAID THAT THE AREA WOULD BE PATROLLED BY CIVILIAN SHIPS BUT THAT THE UK MIGHT USE ARMED FORCE IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES TO PROTECT ITS RIGHTS.

3. THE TEXT OF THE BRITISH DECLARATION INDICATES CONTINUED BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A MULTILATERAL FISHING ARRANGEMENT, BUT IT ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT THE UK WILL ENFORCE THE FISHING CONSERVATION ZONE ON FEBRUARY 1, IF NECESSARY.

4. THE UK AND ARGENTINA AGREED IN 1985 TO COOPERATE IN A FAD STUDY, DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1986, ON THE DEPLETION OF FISHING RESOURCES IN THIS INTERNATIONALLY UNREGULATED AREA. IN THE INTERIM, THE GOA CONCLUDED SEPARATE BILATERAL TREATIES IN LATE JULY 1986 WITH THE USSR AND BULGARIA AND HAS SOUGHT SIMILAR TREATIES WITH OTHER NATIONS FISHING IN THOSE WATERS. ROWE CITED THESE TREATIES AS A MAJOR REASON FOR THE BRITISH DECISION TO DECLARE THE FISHING CONSERVATION ZONE.

5. THE GOA VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED THE BRITISH DECISION IN A PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED ON OCTOBER 30. THE PRESS STATEMENT RAISES THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE OVER THE ISLANDS AS BEING AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT "THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL UPHOLD ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHTS IN THE AREA, AS WELL AS

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