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ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30/31)

PS
 PS/MR. HURD
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 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
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 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE
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 SIR K COUZENS)
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 MR McINTYRE)
 MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN
 DIO CABINET OFFICE
 MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
 MR FULLER SAPS/DIO " "
 SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
 SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

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GPS 380

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FM BONN 041645Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 397 OF 04 MAY

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FALKLANDS: GERMAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS

1. THE SINKING OF THE GENERAL BELGRANO HAS PRODUCED A RASH OF STATEMENTS TODAY IN BONN. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, SPEAKING THIS AFTERNOON AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE VISITING PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER, EXPRESSED HIMSELF QUOTE VERY DISMAYED UNQUOTE AT THIS DEVELOPMENT AND SAID THERE WOULD BE A FURTHER STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THIS EVENING BECAUSE NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION WAS AT PRESENT AVAILABLE.
2. THE FEDERAL SPOKESMAN AT HIS DAILY PRESS CONFERENCE EXPRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S QUOTE SHOCK AT THE DEATH OF HUNDREDS OF SAILORS UNQUOTE AND ITS CONCERN AT THE BROADENING OF THE CONFLICT AND THE RISK OF FURTHER ESCALATION. THESE SENTIMENTS HAVE BEEN ECHOED

RISK OF FURTHER ESCALATION. THESE SENTIMENTS HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY THE SPOKESMEN OF BOTH SPD AND FDP. THE LATTER CALLED FOR QUOTE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND AVOID FURTHER DEATHS UNQUOTE AND SUPPORTED QUOTE THE CONCERN OF THE CHANCELLOR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO INFLUENCE THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFLICT IN THIS SENSE UNQUOTE. EHMKE, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, SAID IN A DPA INTERVIEW THAT HIS PARTY SUPPORTED THE UK'S POSITION AND THE UN RESOLUTION FOR AN ENDING OF THE CONFLICT: BUT HE WENT ON TO ASK WHETHER THE LOSSES BEING SUFFERED WERE NOT OUT OF PROPORTION WITH THE AIM OF THE CONFLICT. HE ALSO CRITICISED BOTH THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED FOR THE QUOTE IMPRUDENT UNQUOTE TERMS OF THEIR REPORTING WHICH QUOTE BORDERED AT TIMES ON THE CHAUVANISTIC UNQUOTE.

3. IN CONTRAST, A STATEMENT YESTERDAY BY MERTES, THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN OF THE CDU, SAID THAT THE BRITISH ATTACK ON ARGENTINA WAS AN ACT OF SELF DEFENCE. LONDON WAS NOT PURSUING ANY EXPANSIVE GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY BUT WAS DEFENDING A PRINCIPLE OF THE WORLD WIDE SAFEGUARDING OF PEACE. THIS STATEMENT WAS HOWEVER MADE BEFORE IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE GENERAL BELGRANO HAD SUNK.
FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAING ADDRESSEES

TAYLOR

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SENT AT 041743Z B KB