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GRS 240

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FCO 031100Z JULY 81

TO PRIORITY PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR ACTING GOVERNOR)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 87 OF 3 JUL

INFORMATION ROUTINE BUENOS AIRES AND MODJX (DS5)

YOUR TELS NO 121 AND 122: HMS ENDURANCE

- 20
1. WE UNDERSTAND COUNCILLORS' FEELINGS AS EXPRESSED IN THEIR MESSAGE. THE IMPLICATIONS THEY MENTION WERE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BEFORE THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW ENDURANCE WAS TAKEN. BUT AS COUNCILLORS RECOGNISE (YOUR SECOND TUR) THE WITHDRAWAL HAS TO BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WIDE-RANGING NATURE OF THE DEFENCE REVIEW.
 2. WE APPRECIATE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCING ISLANDERS THAT THE WITHDRAWAL IS NOT EVIDENCE OF PRESSURE ON THEM TO AGREE TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, THIS ASPECT TOO WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN: THE POLITICAL REASONS FOR MAINTAINING HMS ENDURANCE WERE FULLY WEIGHED BY MINISTERS BUT WERE OVERBORNE BY FINANCIAL NECESSITY.
 3. MOD ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE ISSUES COVERED BY A TO C IN PARA 5 OF YOUR SECOND TUR AND WE SHALL LET YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT IS PROPOSED WHEN THIS IS AGREED. MEANWHILE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD DO ALL YOU CAN TO PRESENT THE DECISION AS ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO THE QUESTION OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DISPUTE AND TO STRESS THAT HMG'S COMMITMENT TO DEFEND AND SUPPORT THE ISLANDS CONTINUES. THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ROYAL MARINE GARRISON AT ITS PRESENT STRENGTH IS EVIDENCE OF THIS.

CARRINGTON
LIMITED
SAmD
DEFENCED
PS/MR RIDKEY

MR DAY
MR URE

Note X