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FM PARIS 091500Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 332 OF 9 APRIL 1982

FALKLANDS ISLANDS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF ANSWERING A QUESTION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 8 APRIL ON FRANCE'S POLICY TOWARDS THE FALKLANDS CRISIS, M. CHEYSSON IS REPORTED TO HAVE SPOKEN AS FOLLOWS:-

BEGINS THE LAW CONCERNING THE OWNERSHIP OF THESE ISLANDS IS NOT CLEAR. WHAT IS CLEAR, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN, SINCE LAST FRIDAY, AN AGGRESSION WHICH WAS UNPROVOKED AND UNCALLED FOR BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS: THEN THERE WAS A JUDGEMENT BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, A DECISION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL - WHICH IS RARE - OF WHICH THE INVADER TOOK NO ACCOUNT. WE ARE AT THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO DEFEND LAW AND INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS. THIS IS ALL THE MORE SO IN THE PRESENT CASE SINCE THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN ATTACKED IS OUR ALLY, A VERY CLOSE ALLY, WHO CAN BE SURE OF ALL OUR SYMPATHY IN A PERIOD WHICH IS PART -

DECISIONS. THIS IS ALL THE MORE SO IN THE PRESENT CASE SINCE THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN ATTACKED IS OUR ALLY, A VERY CLOSE ALLY, WHO CAN BE SURE OF ALL OUR SYMPATHY IN A PERIOD WHICH IS PARTICULARLY HARD FOR NATIONAL PRIDE AND WHICH HAS AROUSED PARTICULARLY STRONG FEELINGS BECAUSE OF THE REACTIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE DO NOT HOPE THAT A SETTLEMENT CAN BE FOUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE THINK THAT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OF AVOIDING THREATS, AVOIDING FORCE. FIRST, BY THE DEPARTURE OF THE INVADERS, BY THE USE OF FORMULAS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN THOUGHT OF BEFORE NOW SO THAT AN OLD DEBATE, ONE THAT HAS GONE ON TOO LONG, CAN BE SETTLED BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS AND ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER. ENDS

FRETWELL.

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