

GR 228

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DESKBY FCO 011400Z

FM KATHMANDU 011000Z JUNE 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 66 OF 1 JUNE

AND TO PRIORITY MODUK (FOR DS6 AND DS11)

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

MY TELELETTER 287 OF 27 MAY TO BURTON, SAD, AND DALES' MINUTE
OF 6 MAY

FALKLANDS: DEPLOYMENT OF GURKHAS

1. SINCE MY TELNO 61 REPORTED PRO-MOSCOW ATTACKS ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF GURKHAS, A SENSATIONAL NEWSPAPER IN NEPAL, OF LIMITED CIRCULATION, HAS CLAIMED THAT "THEY ARE LOSING THEIR LIVES" IN IMPERIALIST INTERESTS. RUMOURS ARE ALSO CIRCULATING OF HEAVY LOSSES. WHILE AGENCY REPORTS AND NEPAL RADIO'S REPLAY OF BBC BULLETINS KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED WITH REASONABLE OBJECTIVITY, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR CONTINUED IMMEDIATE ACCOUNTS OF MOVEMENTS OF 1/7GR AND ANY FUTURE ENGAGEMENT IN COMBAT, AND LOSSES. GIVEN PUBLICITY WHICH THE GURKHA BATTALION HAS RECEIVED, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT HEAR FROM US FIRST RATHER THAN FROM THE MEDIA OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS, IF THEY ARE TO CONTINUE TO DEAL HELPFULLY WITH LOCAL AND POSSIBLY FOREIGN CRITICISM, DURING NAM MEETING.

2. MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE TOLD ME IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THIS MORNING THAT A SOURCE IN THE ROYAL PALACE HAD INDICATED THAT THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WAS BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED THERE. THIS IS HARDLY SURPRISING AND DOES NOT, IN MY VIEW, SUGGEST THAT THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT ARE LIKELY TO CHANGE THE POSITION SET OUT IN PARAW ITO 3 OF MY TELELETTER UNDER REFERENCE. THE AMERICANS ARE HOWEVER CLEARLY FOLLOWING NEPALESE REACTIONS CLOSELY.

DENSON

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