

CONFIDENTIAL

GPS 120

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FM PORT STANLEY 021830Z JULY

TO PRIORITY FCO TELNO 146 OF 2 AUGUST .

POLISH FISHING BOATS

1. AS MOD WILL HAVE INFORMED YOU OVER THE WEEKEND THE ROYAL NAVY DETECTED A POLISH TRAWLER NINETY MILES NORTH OF THE FALKLANDS ON THE MORNING OF 31 AUGUST. HAVING CONSULTED US, THEY SIGNALLED NORTHWOOD SUGGESTING THAT THE POLES BE REMINDED OF THE PRIME MINISTERS STATEMENT ON 22 JULY THAT PORT STANLEY HARBOUR AND THE 3 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AROUND THE FALKLANDS REMAINED CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL SHIPPING FOR REASONS OF SAFETY.
2. THE NAVY NOW SAY THERE ARE FOUR TRAWLERS ABOUT 60 MILES NORTH AND ONE MUCH CLOSER TO THE EAST WHICH APPEARS TO BE STEAMING SOUTH. ONE HAS ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO FISH THE FALKLANDS BANK.
3. FOR OBVIOUS SECURITY REASONS THE NAVY WILL WISH TO CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE POLES STAY OUTSIDE THE THREE MILE LIMIT, AND WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT DISPUTE THIS. BUT AS YOU KNOW HARBOUR DUES FROM THE POLISH FISHING FLEET HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE SOURCE OF INCOME TO THE FIG IN THE PAST.

HUNT

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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