

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

GR 150

DESKBY FCO 090830Z

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM KATHMANDU 090500Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 49 OF 9 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE MOD (FOR CGS), CBF HONG KONG

INFO PRIORITY DELHI

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

MT.

MY TELEGRAM NO 45: GURKHAS: TASK FORCE

1. I HAVE RECEIVED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE CBF HONG KONG RELAYING THE CGS'S ANXIETY NOT REPEAT NOT TO EXCLUDE 1/7 GURKHAS FROM POSSIBLE FOLLOW UP FORCE IN THE FALKLANDS. CGS APPARENTLY RATES CHANCE OF THEIR USE IN COMBAT LOW.

2. THE ASSESSMENT IN MY TUR AND IN TELEGRAM NO 47 STANDS. IF HOWEVER FOR OVERRIDING MILITARY REASONS IT IS NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE GURKHAS THE RISK MUST BE TAKEN. IF IT IS SO DECIDED, PUBLICITY SHOULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM AND NEPALESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED ONLY IF IT BECOMES LIKELY THAT GURKHAS WILL BE USED IN COMBAT. SO FAR I HAVE HAD NO REACTION TO THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM NO 50 TO ABIDJAN. IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ON 7 APRIL, HE DID NOT MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF GURKHAS.

DENSON

BT