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FM WASHINGTON 092320Z APR 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1219 OF 9 APRIL
INFO UKMIS NEW YORK AND BIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 1192: FALKLANDS

1. PARA 4. WE SPOKE TO THE PENTAGON THIS MORNING ABOUT THE REPORT BY ONE WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED U S SOURCES AS SUGGESTING THAT WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN A NAVAL BLOCKADE. WE POINTED OUT THE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS IMPRESSION THIS COULD GIVE THE ARGENTINIANS. THE PENTAGON SAID THAT THIS CAME FROM NO OFFICIAL SOURCE AND HAD THEMSELVES ALREADY BEEN TAKING ACTION TO CORRECT ANY SUCH IMPRESSION. THIS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN SUBSEQUENT AGENCY REPORTS QUOTING U S NAVAL SOURCES AS SUGGESTING THAT AN EFFECTIVE BLOCKADE CERTAINLY CAN BE IMPOSED AND DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE FULL RANGE OF OUR NAVAL CAPABILITIES.

2. I HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO KAY GRAHAM ABOUT THIS REPORT.

HENDERSON

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