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FM PARIS 101000Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 334 OF 10 APRIL 1982

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FRENCH PRESS

1. LE MONDE, LE MATIN AND LE FIGARO HAVE OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS PUBLISHED LETTERS OR EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS. I HAVE WRITTEN TO THE THREE PAPERS. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN TIME FOR MY LETTERS TO BE PUBLISHED.

2. LE MATIN OF 10 APRIL CARRIES A SHORT PIECE UNDER THE HEADING "LES ESPION DE SA MAJESTE", CLAIMING THAT THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF BRITISH AGENTS IN ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THAT THEIR REPORTS HAD REACHED THE FOREIGN OFFICE BUT THAT THE LATTER HAD TAKEN NO NOTICE. LE MATIN GOES ON TO CLAIM THAT IT CAN NAME SOME OF THE AGENTS OF THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. IT SAYS THAT IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THEMSELVES, THE ENGLISH HAD ONE OF THEIR BEST AGENTS, AIR COMMODORE BRIAN FROW WHO HELD THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE ISLANDS AT THE SIDE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

ADMIRAL HILL NORTON, MILITARY ATTACHE IN BUENOS AIRES, HELPED

COMMODORE BRIAN FROW WHO HELD THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE ISLANDS AT THE SIDE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL. ADMIRAL HILL NORTON, MILITARY ATTACHE IN BUENOS AIRES, HELPED HIM IN HIS TASK. THE ARTICLE ENDS BY SAYING " THE ARGENTINES HAVE ATTACKED ANOTHER LOCAL MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE , CAPTAIN J MITCHELL, WHO HAS HAD HIS HOUSE BURNT. THIS AGENT WAS HELPED BY COLONEL LOVE AS WELL AS BY A CIVILIAN, MARK HEATHCOTE."

3. IN MY LETTER TO LE MATIN, I REFERRED TO THIS PIECE, SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT THE PRACTICE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO COMMENT ON ACCUSATIONS OF THIS KIND ALTHOUGH SINCE THEY COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES IT WAS CLEAR WHAT WEIGHT TO ATTACH TO THEM.
FRETWELL

NNNN

SENT PARIS 10/1035Z PJC

NO OP FOR ME CAN WE DO FINALS KK