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UNIT

FALKLANDS/ARGENTINA/CHILE

1. THOUGH SITUATION COULD WELL CHANGE AGAIN QUICKLY CHILEAN MILITARY NOW SEEM MORE RELAXED THOUGH STILL VERY VIGILANT. NAVAL SQUADRON IS BELIEVED OFF CHILDE ISLAND READY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN CASE OF DIVERSIONARY ATTACK BY ARGENTINES ON A BEAGLE ISLAND. SOME RESERVISTS ARE BEING CALLED UP AND MILITARY DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS MADE IN NORTH AND SOUTH. BUT NO ONE SEEMS SERIOUSLY TO THINK THAT EITHER BOLIVIA OR PERU WILL BE TEMPTED INTO ACTION AGAINST THEM.
2. MEANWHILE INFORMED CIVILIANS HERE ARE PRAYING FOR QUICK AND EFFECTIVE BRITISH ACTION TO BE PURSUED AGAINST THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND AIR FORCE IN THE BLOCKADE, AND HOPING ESPECIALLY THAT A FEW ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT MAY BE SHOT DOWN AT A VERY EARLY STAGE. THEY FEAR THAT ARGENTINES WILL, AS A DELAYING TACTIC, SHORTLY GIVE FALSE ASSURANCES OF WITHDRAWAL WHICH MAY MAKE US STAY OUR HAND AND AMERICAN SUPPORT FALTER. THERE IS GREAT ADMIRATION FOR OUR DETERMINATION SO FAR AND WE ARE NOT NOW EXPECTED TO FALL FOR FURTHER ARGENTINE TRICKERY.
3. THOUGH IT IS NOT STRICTLY MY BUSINESS TO COMMENT ON ARGENTINE ATTITUDES, INFORMED CIVILIAN VIEW HERE IS THAT EVERYTHING HAS TO BE SEEN AGAINST BACKGROUND THAT AS A TRADITIONALLY PEACETIME FORCE, EACH OF ARMED SERVICES HAS REGARDED THE OTHERS AS RIVALS FOR SLICE OF ANNUAL BUDGETARY CAKE IN ORDER TO KEEP UP AMOUNT OF NEW EQUIPMENT AND THUS SHARE OF INFLUENCE IN BALANCE OF MILITARY/POLITICAL POWER PLAY. EACH SERVICE IS THUS DESPERATE TO AVOID LOSSES OF EQUIPMENT IN CURRENT CONFLICT KNOWING HOW DIFFICULT IT MAY SUBSEQUENTLY BE TO REGAIN FORMER POSITION OF INFLUENCE FOR LACK OF BUDGETARY ABILITY TO RESUPPLY. AND EACH IS READY TO LAUNCH ACCUSATIONS AT ANY MOMENT OF BEING FORCED TO LOSE EG AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS SO AS TO BENEFIT THE OTHER.