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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3090

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EO 12065: GDS 4/7/88 (SHLAUDEMAN, HARRY W.) OR-M  
TAGS: PBOR, MILL, FK, UK, AR  
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S APRIL 6 MEETING WITH COSTA MENDEZ

REF: STATE 92492

1. :S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. "CLARIN" QUOTES COSTA MENDEZ AS SAYING AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY THAT "MILITARY TENSION IS TENDING TO DIMINISH."

3. TODAY (APRIL 7) GENERAL MENENDEZ IS TO BE SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR OF THE MALVINAS AT PUERTO RIVERO (EX-STANLEY). INTERIOR MINISTER SAINT JEAN WAS QUOTED ON MONDAY AS SAYING THAT HE DID NOT PLAN TO GO OUT TO THE MALVINAS FOR THE CEREMONY AND THAT A MILITARY AUTHORITY ON THE ISLAND WOULD ADMINISTER THE OATH. THAT HAS NOW CHANGED. SAINT JEAN, ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE DELEGATION OF POLITICIANS, LABOR LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, IS FLYING OUT TO PUERTO RIVERO THIS MORNING FOR WHAT WILL SURELY BE A MEDIA EVENT OF CONSIDERABLE PROPORTIONS.

4. COMMENT: IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS SAINT JEAN HAS NOT CLOSED THE DOOR ON WITHDRAWING ARGENTINE TROOPS

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FROM THE ISLANDS (SEPTEL). BUT THE SWEARING-IN OF MENENDEZ WITH SUCH A SUBSTANTIATED DISPLAY OF NATIONAL UNITY IS NOT REASSURING. COSTA MENDEZ'S STATEMENT SUGGESTS THAT NOW THAT WE HAVE TAKEN A HAND, THE THREAT OF BRITISH MILITARY ACTION IS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS SERIOUSLY AS BEFORE. THE ARGENTINES HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN IMPRESSIVE CAPACITY FOR SELF-DELUSION THROUGHOUT THIS AFFAIR. I REPORT THESE INDICATIONS OF GOA ATTITUDES HAVING IN MIND THE PRESS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON  
DATE/CASE ID: 6 NOV 2001 199903752

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REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE SEEING COSTA  
MENDEZ AGAIN TODAY.  
SHLAUDEMANN

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