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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:TSTRICKLER
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O 081026Z APR 82 ZFF4:
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED] STATE 093480

DECAPTIONED

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR WALTERS

FOLLOWING STATE 93480 DTD 08 APR SENT ACTION PARIS
 BEING REPEATED FOR YOU/YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE [REDACTED] STATE 093480

[REDACTED]
 FOR AMBASSADOR WALTERS ONLY

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 4-7-02 (MC MANAWAY, CLAYTON E.)
 TAGS: AR, UK, FA
 SUBJECT: FALKLANDS DISPUTE

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED MEET WITH ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR.
 SECRETARY ASKS THAT YOU BE MOST CIRCUMSPECT IN ANY COMMENTS
 ON THE DISPUTE AND OUR APPROACH. YOUR POSTURE SHOULD BE TO
 LISTEN, SINCE OUR POSITION AND STRATEGY ARE DEVELOPING AS
 WE GO ALONG, AND WE WILL BE SEEING EACH OTHER SHORTLY.
 FOLLOWING IS SITUATION AS OF EVENING APRIL 6 AND TALKING.

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POINTS PREPARED FOR 7 APRIL NSPG MEETING.

3. BEGIN TEXT: UK POLITICAL SITUATION
 BRITS IN WARLIKE MOOD -- HIGH STRUNG, UNPREDICTABLE.
 THATCHER COULD FALL IF NO DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION OR MILITARY
 ROUT.

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COULD ALSO FALL IF U.S. SEEN S TURNING OUR BACK.

LABOR OPPOSITION NO FRIEND OF OURS ON SECURITY ISSUES --
 CHALLENGING THATCHER ON FALKLANDS.
 THATCHER TURNING TO MOD FOR ADVICE. NOT SAFE FOR NOW.
 I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FRANCIS PYM -- NEW FOREIGN
 SECRETARY.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

GALTIERI UNDER PRESSURE BECAUSE OF ECONOMY AND OTHER
 REASONS.

FALKLANDS RECOVERY POPULAR. REGIME STAKES ITS FUTURE
 ON NO RETURN TO STATUS QUO.
 SECOND THOUGHTS NOW -- BUT NATIONALISM AND WAR SPIRIT.

MILITARY CAPABILITIES

UK NAVY COULD HURT ARGENTINES AND POSSIBLY RETAKE SOME
 TERRITORY.

RECOVERY OF MAIN ISLAND DIFFICULT.

UK BEST OPTION TO BLOCK MARITIME COMMERCE TO ARGENTINA.

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UK OPTIONS IN ASCENDING ORDER OF DIFFICULTY:
 INITIAL SUBMARINE ATTACK
 RETAKE SOUTH GEORGIA
 AIR/NAVAL BLOCKADE FALKLANDS
 RETAKE FALKLANDS
 ATTACKS ON ARGENTINE MAINLAND

UK PROBABLY WANTS BIG SEA BATTLE TO GIVE THATCHER A
 "VICTORY".

BUT ARGENTINES CAN PULL MAJOR SHIPS TO PORT.

OTHER FACTORS: UK CIVILIANS ON FALKLANDS, APPROACH
 OF WINTER.

YESTERDAY'S CONTACTS

ARGENTINES LOOKING FOR WAY OUT.

I TOLD THEM I WOULD NOT ENGAGE IF THEY INSIST US
 RECOGNIZING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY.

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COSTA MENDEZ INVITED ME TO BUENOS AIRES.

ARGENTINA MAY CONSIDER WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FROM ISLANDS -- BUT WANTS TO LEAVE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ON ISLANDS.

ARGENTINES NEED TO SHOW ALL NOT IN VAIN -- WE NEED TO

[REDACTED]
AND IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WHILE ARGENTINE OCCUPIES ISLANDS.

B1

LESS INSISTENT ON NEED TO RESTORE STATUS QUO ANTE.

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BRITISH HAVE MOMENTUM -- NOT SURE HOW FAR TO GO.

I PUT THEM ON GUARD BY SUGGESTING I GO TO LONDON FIRST.

UK AND ARGENTINA SEE ROLE FOR US IN THE ISLANDS BUT NOT FOR OTHERS. WE WOULD RATHER SPREAD THE BURDEN AROUND.

PROPOSAL TO UK AND ARGENTINA

ALL MILITARY ON ISLANDS WITHDRAWN WITHIN SHORT, AGREED PERIOD.

NO ADDITIONAL MILITARY FORCE INTRODUCED WITHIN 200 MILES OF ISLANDS.

CONSORTIUM [REDACTED]
INTRODUCE SMALL MILITARY AND POLICE FORCE INTO ISLANDS. THIS FORCE IN PLACE BY TIME WITHDRAWAL COMPLETED.

B1

CONSORTIUM ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION ON INTERIM BASIS. BRITISH AND ARGENTINE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE ISLANDS ATTACHED TO CONSORTIUM.

ARGENTINA AND BRITA NEGOTIATE ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF ISLANDS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND FOR THE RIGHT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS TO SELF-DETERMINATION. CONSORTIUM TO HELP WITH NEGOTIATIONS AND APPLICATION OF SETTLEMENT.

NEXT STEPS

UK HAS INITIATIVE. MUST STOP THEIR FLEET. WE SHOULD

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ASK THEM TO SHOW FIRST CARD.

QUESTION FOR BRITS: IF ARGENTINES EVACUATE AND THERE IS AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION INVOLVING US, PLUS AGREED NEGOTIATING SCENARIO, WILL YOU HOLD UP YOUR FLEET?

ARGENTINA MORE NEGOTIABLE IF THERE IS A LITTLE RUNNING ROOM IN BRITAIN.

NEED PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO SAY, WHEN TALK GETS TOUGH IN LONDON, THAT WE CAN'T SUPPORT A MILITARY SOLUTION IF A REASONABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE.

IF THIS GOES AT ALL, MAY TAKE TWO BITES WITH EACH PARTY.

IF WE FAIL, OUR INTERESTS SUFFER. BUT NO LOSS OF PRESTIGE FOR HAVING TRIED FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY WHILE THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ON BOTH SIDES AND EACH IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. AS THE UK FLEET PROCEEDS, WAR FEVER ON BOTH SIDES MOUNTS. END TEXT.
HAIG UNQUOTE EAGLEBURGER

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