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PAGE 01 LONDON 07898 111440Z
ACTION NODS-00

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000.W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8901

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 12065; FRDS-1 04/11/12 (STREATOR, E. J.) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, UK, US, AR

SUBJECT: CONFLICTING REPORTS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A RED
CROSS OPINION SURVEY IN THE FALKLANDS

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT A PRO-
POSAL FOR THE BRITISH TO ASK THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
TO SURVEY OPINION AMONG FALKLAND ISLANDERS ABOUT THE
POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS. END SUMMARY.

B1

4. WE ALSO NOTE A REPORT IN YESTERDAY'S DAILY SUN TO THE
EFFECT THAT HMG HAD ASKED THE IRC TO "INTEREST THEMSELVES"

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IN THE FALKLAND MATTER.

5. REPORTS OF AN OVERTURE TO THE IRC COME A DAY AFTER PRESS STORIES INDICATED AMBIGUITY AMONG SOME ISLANDERS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HMG WILL ATTEMPT TO REASSERT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION BY FORCE. A LETTER SIGNED BY FIFTEEN NON-ELECTED FALKLAND OFFICIALS AND WIDELY REPORTED HERE, URGED THAT CIVILIANS BE EVACUATED FROM THE ISLANDS BEFORE HOSTILITIES BEGIN. THIS FOLLOWED INTERVIEWS WITH OTHER ISLANDERS INDICATING SOME READINESS TO CONTEMPLATE AN INCREASED ARGENTINE ROLE IN THE FALKLANDS -- ESPECIALLY IF THE ALTERNATIVE WAS HOSTILITIES. SO FAR, THE FCO HAS DOWNPLAYED THESE REPORTS; THE OFFICIAL LINE ON THE EVACUATION LETTER, FOR EXAMPLE, IS THAT MANY OF THE SIGNERS WERE EXPATRIOTS AND NONE WAS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL.

B1

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PAGE 03

LONDON 07898 111440Z

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