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DRAFTED BY PA/OAP:VGILLESPIE:SCH
APPROVED BY PA/OAP:VGILLESPIE
ARA/P - SUSAN CLYDE (SUBS)
EUR/P - J. MOORE (SUBS)
FWG: R. ICE-

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PRIORITY FOR ALL POSTS

E.O. 12065:N/A
TAGS:SOEN, AR, UK
SUBJECT:EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. OF 22 MAJOR U.S. DAILIES TAKING SIDES IN THE DISP TE, ALL LABELED ARGENTINA THE AGGRESSOR: "EVERY NATION HAS AN INTEREST IN THE PRINCIPLE THAT TERRITORY, HOWEVER 'INSIGNIFICANT,' CANNOT BE ACQUIRED BY FORCE" (PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE); "PRESIDENT REAGAN IS LEFT WITH NO RATIONAL ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DENOUNCE THE IRRESPONSIBLE ARGENTINIAN AGGRESSION ... AND TO RECONSIDER OUR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA" (NEWARK STAR-LEDGER).

2. EARLY EDITORIALS WELCOMED THE U.S. MEDIATION EFFORT: "THE SITUATION CRIES OUT FOR PEACEMAKING. PRESIDENT REAGAN UNCLASSIFIED

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'AS RIGHT TO GIVE AL HAIG THE ASSIGNMENT" (BALTIMORE SUN); "HAIG DESERVES CREDIT FOR HIS EXHAUSTING EFFORT TO FIND THAT FORMULA BEFORE THE BRITISH SHIPS ARRIVE IN FULL FORCE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 8 NOV 2001 199903752

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WITHIN THE COMING WEEK" (LOS ANGELES TIMES).

3. SEVERAL RECENT EDITORIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE DRAWN-OUT MEDIATION EFFORT. BOTH THE NEW YORK TIMES (4/15) AND THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (4/ 6) AGREE THAT "AMERICA'S EVEN-HANDEDNESS" IS BEING OVERDONE AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOW STAND "SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER" WITH BRITAIN:

"THE WAY TO BREAK THE STANDOFF WILL BE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IF A BRITISH INVASION IS NECESSARY THE U.S. WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO FAIL" (WSJ). THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS EXPRESSED A SIMILAR VIEW.

4. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (4/15) QUESTIONED WHETHER LONG-DISTANCE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IS EFFICACIOUS: "EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATORS POINT TO THE PITFALLS OF GETTING AGREEMENT FROM THE ARGENTINES, SAY, AND THEN LETTING THE MATTER REST FOR 18 HOURS WHILE THE INTERMEDIARY IS TRAVELLING AND THE ARGENTINES HAVE TIME TO RETHINK, REASSESS, AND CHANGE THEIR MINDS."

5. OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS WERE:

-- A SALE-LEASE-BACK DEAL ALONG THE LINES OF BRITAIN'S ARRANGEMENT WITH CHINA OVER HONG KONG (NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, BALTIMORE SUN);

-- SELF-DETERMINATION TO LET ISLANDERS DECIDE ON OWN FUTURE (BUFFALO EVENING NEWS);

-- TOKEN U.N. PEACE-KEEPING FORCE UNTIL SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE RESOLVED (MIAMI HERALD).
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6. THE LESSON OF THE FALKLANDS, ACCORDING TO SIX OF THE PAPERS, IS THE INABILITY OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO CONTAIN UNILATERAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE BY NATIONS: "UNTIL THE TIME COMES WHEN THE WORLD'S AFFAIRS CAN BE SAFELY REGULATED BY LAW AND NEGOTIATION, GREAT POWER MUST BE SUPPORTED BY GREAT MILITARY STRENGTH" (CHICAGO TRIBUNE); "THE LACK OF A LARGE AND EFFECTIVE RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE IN THE FREE WORLD REMAINS A CRITICAL WEAKNESS" (CHATTANOOGA NEWS FREE PRESS).

7. SEVERAL PAPERS SPECULATED THAT THE INVASION WAS PERPETRATED TO DISTRACT ARGENTINIANS FROM DOMESTIC PROBLEMS: "THE TRUTH IS THAT THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT, HARRASSED BY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL UNREST, ATTEMPTED AN

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ACT OF DRAMATIC DISTRACTION, NOT A HEROIC RESCUE OF THE OPPRESSED" (DES MOINES REGISTER).

8. TWO PAPERS QUESTIONED WHETHER THE GOA HAD BEEN MISLED BY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION: "DID THE ARGENTINES THINK THAT, WITH THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDING TO RESUME ARMS SALES AND SEEKING THEIR HAND IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THEY COULD GET THE PRESIDENT TO WINK AT THEIR GRAB OF THE FALKLANDS?" (WASHINGTON POST). THE MIAMI HERALD ASKED A SIMILAR QUESTION. HAIG

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