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TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 18 OF 13 JAN 83

REPEATED PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA WASHINGTON
NEW YORK AND CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY.
PRESS SUMMARY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER AGUIRRE LANARI'S SPEECH TO NAM REPRESENTATIVES IN MANAGUA DOMINATES TODAY'S HEADLINES. HIS DENUNCIATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S FALKLANDS VISIT AND OF THE UK'S ENTIRE POLICY IN THE AREA IS REPORTED AT LENGTH AND SUPPLEMENTED WITH NUMEROUS COMMENTARIES IN SIMILAR VEIN.

2. IN BUENOS AIRES, A MEMBER OF THE FRENTE DE IZQUIERDA POPULAR BURNT THE UNION FLAG OUTSIDE THE BOLSA OFFICES, BUT IN CONTRAST TO RECENT PRESS HYSTERIA, PRESIDENT BIGNONE ADOPTED A SOBER AND RESTRAINED TONE WHEN BRIEFLY COVERING THE FALKLANDS QUESTION IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH "LA NACION". (TRANSLATION OF TEXT IN MIFT). HE ALSO SAID CURRENT ARMED FORCES RE-EQUIPMENT FOLLOWED PLANS LAID DOWN BEFORE THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT.

3. ECONOMY MINISTER JORGE WEHBE TOLD A PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD ABSORB A LARGE PART OF THE DEBT CONTRACTED BY THE PROVINCES, ON WHOM HE NOW INTENDS TO IMPOSE TIGHT BUDGETARY AND CREDIT RESTRICTIONS. HE ALSO SAID PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES WOULD RECEIVE BIMONTHLY WAGE INCREASES UP TO JUNE 1983 AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER, BUT THAT THESE WOULD NOT EXCEED 5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE FULL YEAR. THERE WOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. MEANWHILE, THE CGT-AZOPARDO BRANCH HAS CALLED FOR A 23 PER CENT RISE IN THE TAKE-HOME PAY OF ALL WORKERS FOR JANUARY.

4. THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE CONFISCATION OF THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE "HUMOR" IS GATHERING MOMENTUM. PERONIST, RADICAL AND FEDERAL PARTY POLITICIANS HAVE ADDED THEIR VOICE TO THE GROWING CONDEMNATION OF THE ACTION AS AN UNACCEPTABLE VIOLATION OF PRESS FREEDOM.

JOY

POWELL-JONES

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MOD MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW
YORK.

UNDEC
[JXMTHCZLRXVDEG]

Prime Minister
I have ~~been~~ asked for
a report on para. 6.

A. J. C. ^{Mr} / 1.

1. THE PATTERN OF THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S PLEDGE OF LONG-TERM DEFENCE OF THE FALKLANDS PROVOKING A FURTHER BARRAGE OF LOGGL PRESS CRITICISM. PROMINENCE IS ALSO GIVEN TO MRS TATCHER'S STATEMENT THAT IF ARGENTINA DOES NOT WISH TO HONOUR HER DEAD, THE BRITISH WILL DO SO BY GIVING THEM A DECENT BURIAL.
2. ALL PAPERS AGAIN CARRY A LITANY OF CONDEMNATIONS OF THE VISIT CULLED FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS AND POLITICIANS IN ARGENTINA AND ABROAD. THERE HAS BEEN OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT NOTES OF PROTEST WILL BE SUBMITTED TO BOTH THE UN AND THE OAS.
- 3) THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT LAST NIGHT CONFISCATED THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE SATIRICAL REVIEW "HUMOR" ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WASNTTNYBERSIVE AND IMMORAL. THE DETERMINING FACTOR MAY HAVE BEEN THE REPRINTING OF AN ALLEGED CONVERSATION IN WHICH FORMER FEDERAL JUDGE, PETRO NARVAIZ, WAS WARNED BY THE ARMY'S LEGAL ADVISER, GENERAL HECTOR LOPEZ DOMINGUEZ, AGAINST PURSUING SENSITIVE CASES. THE MAGAZINE HAS NOT BEEN CLOSED DOWN, BUT THE LEFT-WING "LA VOZ" REFERS TO THE INCIDENT AS A FRESH ATTACK ON PRESS FREEDOM.
4. THE QUESTION OF THE QUOTE DISAPPEARED UNQUOTE RE-EMERGES IN THE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH BY THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, EMILIO COLOMBO, IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS UNACCEPTABLE ARGENTINA'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF MISSING ITALIANS.
5. FOLLOWING THE MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN CGT-AZOPARDO LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TEAM, THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE A SIX-MONTH UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM IS HIGHLIGHTED ONCE MORE. ZPAYMENTS WILL BE SET AT A MONTHLY TWO MILLION PESOS FOR A SINGLE PERSON AND THREE MILLION PESOS FOR MARRIED COUPLES, AND WILL BE BACK-DATED TO 1 JANUARY. THE SOURCE OF FUNDING REMAINS UNSPECIFIED.

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6. ACCRODING TO A REUTER'S REPORT IN THE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD", MILITARY SOURCES CLAIM THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY HAS RECENTLY BOUGHT THREE OR FOUR LOCKHEED ELECTRA AIRLINERS FROM THE USA FOR CONVERSION INTO MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT. THE PLANES ARE BEING EQUIPPED WITH MODERN SURFACE DETECTION RADAR AND WOULD BE ADAPTED TO CARRY TORPEDOES AND OTHER WEAPONS. THEY WOULD NOT BE ARMED FOR ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE.

JOY

POWELL-JONES

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 35 OF 11 JANUARY

CHILEAN INTEREST IN MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS

1. THE CHILEAN MEDIA ARE TAKING A VERY CLOSE INTEREST IN MRS THATCHER'S CURRENT VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS, AND HAVE GIVEN IT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE SINCE 8 JANUARY. WE HAVE IN PARTICULAR BEEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN ITS TIMING AND PURPOSE, AND TO COMMENT ON ARGENTINE CHARGES OF PROVOCATION. IN THE ABSENCE OF MATERIAL FROM US, THE PAPERS HAVE GIVEN DISPROPORTIONATE SPACE TO ARGENTINE AND EVEN SOVIET COMMENT FIERCELY CRITICAL OF THE VISIT, FOR EXAMPLE AGUIRRE LANARI'S CHARGES IN MANAGUA THAT WE ARE BASING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE FALKLANDS AND ALLEGATIONS BY TASS ON 10 JANUARY THAT WE ARE TURNING THE ISLANDS INTO A MAJOR MILITARY BASE.
2. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT BY THE CHILEANS BUT I AM EXPECTING TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER SHORTLY FOR A GENERAL EXCHANGE BEFORE LEAVING TO ATTEND THE HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK AND NEED MORE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE IF POSSIBLE BY 1500Z ON 12 JANUARY. SO FAR ALL WE HAVE IS RETRACT 0309 JAN.

HICKMAN

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 10 OF 11 JANUARY

ES/ NO. 10, DOWNING STREET.

MS

RIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS: PRESS COMMENT

1. TWO LEADING BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE TAKEN A ROBUST LINE IN DEFENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RIGHT TO VISIT THE FALKLANDS. A SHORT EDITORIAL IN "O GLOBO" WHICH NORMALLY REFLECTS ORTHODOX GOVERNMENT THINKING, READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS WASTING TIME AND ABANDONING COMMON SENSE IN BECOMING INDIGNANT OVER THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER TO THE FALKLANDS. AFTER ALL, THE FLAG THAT FLIES OVER THE ISLANDS IS BRITISH - AND HOW DOES ONE DENY THE RIGHT OF A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT HER OWN SUBJECTS, IN TERRITORY WHERE NOT A SINGLE ARGENTINE CITIZEN IS LIVING? ARGENTINA IN ITS TURN, HAS EVERY RIGHT TO CONTEST OWNERSHIP OF THE ISLANDS IN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS: THEIR CLAIM, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED IN THE SLIGHTEST BY MRS THATCHER'S VISIT, WILL NOT BENEFIT BY ILL-CONSIDERED APPEALS TO THE PATRIOTIC PRIDE OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE.

UNQUOTE

2. AN EXCELLENT EDITORIAL IN THE "JORNAL DO BRASIL" REFERS TO THE "STRANGE PLASTICITY" OF ARGENTINE REASONING IMPLIED BY THEIR COMMENT THAT THE ONLY TITLE GREAT BRITAIN HAD TO THE ISLANDS WAS THAT OF FORCE. EVEN SUPPOSING THAT "THE LANGUAGE OF FORCE" WAS THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, THE EDITORIAL ASKS, WHAT RIGHT HAVE THE ARGENTINES AFTER 2 APRIL TO CENSOR THIS? (FULL TEXT BY BAG). *the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

3. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, THE ITAMARATY HAVE TAKEN A MORE CRITICAL LINE. THEIR PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS REFUSED TO MAKE ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE VISIT: BUT UNOFFICIALLY SOME FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE VISIT COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "INOPPORTUNE" AND WOULD ONLY SERVE TO STIR UP THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE AGAIN AND DELAY THE REINITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE.

HARDING

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INFO IMMEDIATE CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY AND PRIORITY
TO MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK

PRESS SUMMARY

1. THE LOCAL PRESS GREETED THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS WITH SURPRISED AND VEHEMENT INDIGNATION. ALL PAPERS AVIDLY REPORT DETAILS OF THE TRIP, WHICH HAS ELICITED RHETORICAL BANNER HEADLINES, ALLEGING IN THE WORDS OF FOREIGN MINISTER AGUIRRE LANARI QUOTE AN ACTION OF PROVOCATION AND ARROGANCE UNQUOTE, QUOTE AN AFFRONT TO ARGENTINA AND THE WHOLE OF LATIN AMERICA UNQUOTE, WHICH QUOTE WILL EARN REJECTION FROM THE ENTIRE CIVILISED WORLD UNQUOTE. (TEXT AND TRANSLATION BY BAG TO FCO).
2. INTERIOR MINISTER LLAMIL RESTON HAS SPOKEN IN SIMILAR TERMS ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT HAS YET COME FROM PRESIDENT BIGNONE OR THE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.
3. THERE IS UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION FROM ASSORTED POLITICAL AND LABOUR LEADERS. THE MOST EXTREME POSITION HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE QUOTE CENTRO DE VOLUNTARIOS POR LA PATRIA UNQUOTE, WHICH CHARACTERISES THE VISIT AS QUOTE AN ACT OF WAR UNQUOTE AND DEMANDS BOTH THE EXPROPRIATION OF BRITISH FIRMS IN ARGENTINA AND THE CESSATION OF DEBT REPAYMENTS TO BRITISH BANKS (TEXT AND TRANSLATION BY BAG TO FCO).
4. LOCAL COMMENTATORS SEEK TO INTERPRET THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENCE IN THE FALKLANDS AS A GESTURE DESIGNED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION AND TAKE SOME CONSOLATION FROM REPORTS OF DISSENTING VOICES IN LONDON. THEY RECORD WITH SATISFACTION DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FROM THE NICARAGUAN, ECUADOREAN, CUBAN AND MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED STATES IN MANAGUA, AND EXPECT AGUIRRE LANARI TO PRESS THE ISSUE THERE TODAY. ACCORDING TO 'LA VOZ', HE WILL SINMULTANEOUSLY DENOUNCE THE UK FOR HAVING INSTALLED NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE ISLANDS.
5. ON 9 JANUARY WIDE COVERAGE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO AIR FORCE COMMANDER AUGUSTO HUGHES' STATEMENT THAT A DECISION ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE NEXT CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. THE RUMOUR OF PROGRESS ON THIS QUESTION WAS THEREFORE APPARENTLY A RED HERRING.

/ 6. IN AN

6. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "CLARIN", PRESIDENT BIGNONE DISCOUNTED TALK OF A POSSIBLE C O U P AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE. LLAMIL RESTON HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THESE MAY BE HELD BEFORE NOVEMBER IF THE POLITICAL PARTIES CONSIDER THAT THEY CAN ORGANISE THEMSELVES MORE SWIFTLY.

7. BIGNONE IS DUE TO MEET PRESIDENT JOAO FIGUEIREDO OF BRAZIL IN PUERTO MEIRA ON 13 JANUARY. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE EXTERNAL DEBT, COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA, AND THE FALKLANDS.

JOY

POWELL-JONES

(Repetition to PORT STANLEY
referred for departmental decision,
repeated as requested to other posts.)

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