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TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NO. 154 OF 07 APR 82
INFO ROUTINE ATHENS AND WASHINGTON

MIPT: FALKLAND ISLANDS: ITALIAN VIEWS

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF THE PASSAGE ON THE FALKLANDS
IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER SPADOLINI'S
MEETING WITH KARAMANLIS YESTERDAY.

QUOTE IN EXAMININ THE SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE
WORLD, PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN GREAT
BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND
ISLANDS. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE CLEAR ITALY'S SOLIDARITY WITH
GREAT BRITAIN OVER THE OCCUPATION OF THIS ATLANTIC ARCHIPELAGO BY
ARGENTINA, AND EXPRESSED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S GREAT CONCERN
ABOUT THE WORSENING OF THE SITUATION, WHICH INVOLVES TWO COUNTRIES
WITH WHICH ITALY MAINTAINS FRIENDLY LINKS. SPADOLINI REPEATED HIS
FIRM CONDEMNATION OF THE USE OF FORCE AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING INTER-
NATIONAL DISPUTES, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVER-
NMENT SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE APPEALS OF MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
THOSE OF THE EC, FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARGENTINE
FORCES AND THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN. THE
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN FACT CONVINCED THAT ONLY A NEGOTIATED SOL-
UTION, AS DESIRED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, CAN PUT AN END TO THE
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE

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