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TELEGRAM NO. 162 OF 13 APR 82
SAVING FOR INFO UKREP BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON

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see 102

MY TELEGRAM SAVING NO. 14 : FALKLAND ISLANDS/ITALIAN PRESS REACTIONS

- N/K
1. THERE IS STILL WIDESPREAD COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN LONDON, BUENOS AIRES AND THE US. MOST ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON HAIG'S EFFORTS. SOME PAPERS ARE MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN OTHERS, BUT ALL RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS STILL A WIDE GAP BETWEEN BRITISH AND ARGENTINES POSITIONS. MOST PAPERS SAY HAIG IS TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH WILL PRESERVE THE U S'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES.
 2. SOME COMMENTATORS STRESS THE NEED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT BRITAIN MAY BE WRONG IN BEING PREPARED TO USE MILITARY FORCE. IL TEMPO (RIGHT OF CENTRE), WRITING BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EC EMBARGO ON IMPORTS FROM ARGENTINA, SAID THAT DIPLOMACY MIGHT BE BETTER THAN SANCTIONS BUT, RECOGNISED THAT ITALY AND THE EC MUST SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN. IL MESSAGGERO (LEFT OF CENTRE) SAID THAT BOTH ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN WERE IN THE WRONG - ARGENTINA FOR INVADING THE ISLANDS AND BRITAIN FOR USING OUTDATED COLONIAL METHODS IN HER RESPONSE, ADDED, WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, THAT DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF SENDING OUT THE TASK FORCE WERE BEGINNING TO EMERGE IN BRITAIN; AND DREW AN UNHELPFUL PARALLEL WITH GIBRALTAR (WE SHALL TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION).
 3. ALL PAPERS REPORT THE EC DECISION ON AN EMBARGO OF ARGENTINE IMPORTS. MANY POINT OUT THAT THIS WILL IMPOSE HEAVY COSTS ON ITALY, BUT THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO SUGGESTION THAT ITALY WAS WRONG IN ACCEPTING THE COMMUNITY'S DECISION. NO PARTY IS TRYING TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL BY CRITICISING ITALY'S SUPPORT OF BRITAIN.
 4. THERE ARE TWO HELPFUL COMMENTS BY EXPERTS ON THE LEGAL POSITION. AN INTERVIEW IN IL GIORNALE (13 APRIL) (RIGHT WING) SAYS "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS (OF THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY), THE BRITISH CLAIM IS INDISPUTABLY SUPPORTED BY BETTER ARGUMENTS". PAESE SERA (LEFT WING) OF 13 APRIL SAYS: "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ACTION OF THE BUENOS AIRES GOVERNMENT IS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW".
 5. TV AND RADIO COVERAGE IS EXTENSIVE BUT FACTUAL, GIVING PROMINENCE TO THE POPE'S CALL IN HIS EASTR DRESS FOR BOTH SIDES TO FIND A SOLUTION WITHOUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE.
 6. FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES
ARCULUS [REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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[NOT ADVANCED]

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