

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(28)

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UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS 081823Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATED FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 330 OF 8 APRIL 1982

FALKLANDS: FRENCH PRESS COMMENT, 8 APRIL

1. THE FALKLANDS HAVE NOW LEFT THE FRONT PAGES. SUBSTANTIAL FACTUAL REPORTS CONTINUE HOWEVER, CONCENTRATING PRIMARILY ON THE CURRENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, ESPECIALLY THE HAIG MISSION AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN EMBARGO ON THE SUPPLY OF FRENCH ARMS TO ARGENTINA.

2. SEVERAL PAPERS DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE FALKLANDS AND THE FRENCH OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS. ISNARD WRITES IN LE MONDE OF 8 APRIL THAT "NO MORE THAN GREAT BRITAIN TODAY, FRANCE TOMORROW, CAN NOT BE SHELTERED FROM SUCH DANGERS" AND POINTS OUT THAT CERTAIN FRENCH TERRITORIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ARE CLAIMED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. HE EMPHASISES THE INCREASED ATTENTION THAT ALL SUCH ISLANDS WILL DRAW THROUGH THEIR POTENTIAL IN NATURAL RESOURCES.

* IN AN ARTICLE IN LE MONDE DATED 98 APRIL ISNARD REPORTS THAT THE NOTION OF WHAT HE CALLS, IN QUOTES, A "WAR ZONE" INTRIGUES OBSERVERS SINCE IT APPEARS TO CORRESPOND TO AN ECONOMIC ZONE OF 200 MILES RATHER THAN TO TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR WHICH BRITAIN CLAIMS ONLY 3 MILES. HE WRITES THAT THE CONCEPT OF A "WAR ZONE" IS NOT COVERED BY INTERNATIONAL MARRITIME LAW. LE FIGARO (RIGHT - WING) STRESSES THE VALUE OF A NAVAL BATTLE AS A SPECTACLE MUCH GREATER THAN EVEN THE WORLD CUP) AND COMMENTS THAT HOWEVER EVOLVED THE HUMAN RACE MAY BE. "WE HAVE NOT YET

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AS A SPECTACLE MUCH GREATER THAN EVEN THE WORLD CUP) AND COMMENTS
THAT HOWEVER EVOLVED THE HUMAN RACE MAY BE, "WE HAVE NOT YET
FOUND A BETTER WAY (THAN COMBAT) OF FULLY SETTling OUR DIFFERENCES"
LES ECHOS (BUSINESS DAILY), STRESSING THE COHESION OF EUROPE,
ARGUES THAT FRANCE IS RIGHT TO HELP BRITAIN NOW " BECAUSE THE
DAY IS NOT VERY DISTANT WHEN FRANCE HERSELF WILL HAVE TO APPEAL
TO HER ALLIES TO DEFEND THE FEW TERRITORIES SHE STILL CONTROLS
IN THE WORLD"..... "FRANCE IS PART OF A COHERENT WHOLE WHICH
IS CALLED EUROPE: AS SHE DRAWS MULTIPLE ADVANTAGES FROM IT,
IT IS RIGHT THAT SHE SHOULD RECOGNISE IN IT SOME DUTIES."

FRETWELL

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SENT/RECD AT 081911Z PJC/

* CNN 98 APRIL SHOULD READ 9 APRIL .