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RESTRICTED

FM BONN 120900Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 318 OF 12 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE DOT MOD(DNOT)

*[passed by COS]*

FALKLANDS: MERCHANT SHIPPING

*mt*

1. A LEADING FEDERAL GERMAN SHIPOWNER, WHO HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO US IN THE MATTER OF ARGENTINE SHIPPING MOVEMENTS, HAS ASKED US FOR GUIDANCE ON THE POSITION OF NON-ARGENTINE MERCHANT SHIPPING FOLLOWING THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE MARITIME EXCLUSIVE ZONE. AN ARTICLE BY EX-ADMIRAL MCGEOCH, REPORTED IN THE FRG WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WELT AM SONNTAG ON 11 APRIL, HAS GIVEN HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SAFE PASSAGE OF SUCH SHIPPING IN ARGENTINE COASTAL WATERS COULD BE AFFECTED. DOT ARE PRESUMABLY PROVIDING GUIDANCE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING ON THIS (AND ALSO THE EFFECTS OF THE ARGENTINE-DECLARED ZONE): GRATEFUL IF IT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US URGENTLY FOR USE WITH OUR FRG CONTACTS.

TAYLOR