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DESKBY 1415ØØZ

FM WASHINGTON 141315Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 127Ø OF 14 APRIL

INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO MOSCOW UKMIS NEW YORK

## FALKLANDS: US ASSISTANCE FOR UK.

- 1. LAST NIGHT'S TELEVISION NEWS AND TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PROMINENT REPORTS THAT THE US IS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE BRITISH IN SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL NAVAL TASK FORCE.
- 2. AMONG THE HELP WHICH THE REPORTS ALLEGE IS BEING PROVIDED IS:
  - A) USE OF A CHANNEL ON AN AMERICAN SATELLITE TO HELP COMMUNICATION WITH OUR VESSELS:
  - B) INTELLIGENCE SURVEYS OF ARGENTINE MILITARY ACTIVITY, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE:
  - C) SPECIAL EFFORTS TO MAKE JET FUEL AVAILABLE FOR BRITISH AIRCRAFT ON ASCENSION ISLAND:
  - D) WEATHER INFORMATION ON THE FALKLANDS REGION.

3. TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST QUOTES SENIOR US OFFICIALS AS ... CONFIRMING THE ACCURACY OF THESE REPORTS. 4. THE SAME NEWSPAPER ALSO CONTAINS A REPORT THAT SOME PENTAGON OFFICIALS ARE PLAYING DOWN WIDELY-CIRCULATED RUMOURS THAT THE RUSSIANS MAY BE SUPPLYING ARGENTINA WITH INTELLIGENCE DATA ON BRITISH SHIP MOVEMENTS. THE OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO REACH CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THIS AND THAT IN ANY CASE THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT LAUNCHED A MAJOR INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING EFFORT ON THE FALKLANDS. HENDERSON NNNN PERSON ARROW . ACHED ESSAIN