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TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 60 OF 16 APRIL

FALKLAND ISLANDS: ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA

1. SOME ARGENTINE MISSIONS OVERSEAS ARE CIRCULATING DOCUMENTS TO OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND LOCAL CONTACTS, INCLUDING THE MEDIA, PURPORTING TO EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND TO RECENT EVENTS AND JUSTIFY THE ARGENTINE INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS. POSTS WILL ALREADY HAVE MATERIAL TO COUNTER THEIR MAIN ARGUMENTS, BUT THE FOLLOWING POINTS MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL AND CAN BE USED FREELY.

SOUTH GEORGIA

2. ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA IS PRESENTING EVENTS IN SOUTH GEORGIA IN MARCH 1982 AS BRITISH 'AGGRESSION' AGAINST ARGENTINE CITIZENS LEGALLY CONDUCTING A COMMERCIAL OPERATION. FOR THE TRUE BACKGROUND, INCLUDING BRITAIN'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS, SEE LORD CARRINGTON'S STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON 30 MARCH (TEXT IN VS 29/82). ARGENTINE CLAIMS THAT THE GROUP WAS THERE LEGALLY BECAUSE IT HAD DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1971 ANGLO-ARGENTINE COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT ARE SPURIOUS: THE 1971 AGREEMENT APPLIES SPECIFICALLY AND EXCLUSIVELY TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, NOT SOUTH GEORGIA. IN ANY CASE, POSSESSION OF SUCH DOCUMENTATION NEVER ABSOLVED EITHER ARGENTINES OR FALKLAND ISLANDERS FROM COMPLYING WITH NORMAL IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES. CLAIMS THAT BRITAIN WAS SEEKING TO 'INVALIDATE' THE 1971 AGREEMENT ARE EQUALLY SPURIOUS FOR THE SAME REASONS.

HISTORICAL BASIS OF SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM

3. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON MATERIAL ALREADY PROVIDED, INCLUDING

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GUIDANCE TELNOS 54, 57 AND 58 TO COUNTER TENDENTIOUS ARGENTINE ARGUMENTS ABOUT EVENTS PRIOR TO 1833, AND ASSERTIONS THAT THESE PROVE THE VALIDITY OF ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY. YOU COULD ADD THAT IF EVERY COUNTRY WHICH HAD UNSATISFIED TERRITORIAL CLAIMS DATING BACK 150 YEARS WERE TO USE FORCE IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDRAW ITS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, A VERY CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WOULD BE AFFECTED AND THE RESULT WOULD BE CHAOS.

UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS

4. ARGENTINE ARGUMENTS THAT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS CALLED ON ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE ARE PLAINLY SELF-DEFEATING, SINCE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUING AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION THE MOST RECENT ROUND HAVING BEEN HELD IN FEBRUARY 1982 IN NEW YORK. MOREOVER, ARGENTINA'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT MANDATORY UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502 FOLLOWING THE INVASION SHOWS HOW MUCH SHE HERSELF RESPECTS UN RESOLUTIONS.

WISHES VS INTERESTS

5. YOU WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH ARGENTINA'S ARGUMENTS THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS ON THE BASIS THAT THEY ARE FOREIGN SETTLERS, NOT NATIVES. YOU SHOULD USE THE ARGUMENTS IN GUIDANCE TELNO 57 TO COMBAT THIS. HMG HAVE CONSISTENTLY EMPHASISED THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF THE ISLANDERS' OWN WISHES. THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS INDEED ENSHRINED IN THE UN CHARTER.

6. ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN INSISTING THAT ISLANDERS' INTERESTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BORNE IN MIND, AND LONG LISTS OF ARGENTINE OFFERS OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THEM ARE BEING PARADED. ARGENTINA HAS CERTAINLY PROVIDED USEFUL SERVICES TO THE ISLANDS, NOTABLY A WEEKLY AIR SERVICE TO THE MAINLAND AND SUBSIDISED PETROL: SUCH SERVICES HAVE BEEN APPRECIATED. THE FACT THAT OTHER OFFERS WERE DECLINED MEANS ONLY THAT ISLANDERS CONSIDERED EXISTING FACILITIES ADEQUATE OR, IN SOME CASES, THAT

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HEAVY-HANDED OFFERS OF CHARITY, WHOSE PURPOSE AS AN INDUCEMENT TO ACCEPT ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY WAS SOMETIMES OPENLY ADMITTED, WERE INEVITABLY UNWELCOME.

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BY TELEGRAPH

TO IMMEDIATE

BONN

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BRUSSELS
UKREP EC BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
LUXEMBOURG
PARIS

ROME
BERNE
DUBLIN
MADRID
UKMIS NEW YORK
BIS NEW YORK

WASHINGTON
OTTAWA
CANBERRA
WELLINGTON
NEW DELHI
LAGOS

[PRIORITY]

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LISBON
OSLO
UKDEL STRASBOURG
UKMIS GENEVA
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