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TELNO 1335 OF 17 APRIL 82.

Action

MY TELNO 1333 : FALKLANDS

THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE (PARA 3 OF TUR) IS BY RATTNER. UNDER THE HEADING "US HANDLING OF FALKLAND CRISIS STIRS DEEP RESENTMENT IN BRITAIN", RATTNER SAYS A BROAD CROSS SECTION OF BRITAINS HAVE BEEN OFFENDED BY LACK OF MORE OVERT SUPPORT FROM SENIOR AMERICANS, INCLUDING REAGAN AND HAIG, WITH THE GREATEST OUTRAGE BEING RESERVED FOR JEANE KIRKPATRICK - EVEN BEFORE THE FALKLANDS CRISIS, RATTNER WRITES, THE US STOOD LOW IN BRITISH OPINION AS MEASURED BY THE POLLS AND HE QUOTS A MOI POLL SHOWING THAT 28 PERCENT OF BRITONS HAVE A LOWER OPINION OF REAGAN AS A RESULT OF US HANDLING OF THE FALKLANDS.

2. RATTNER SAYS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO DEFUSE THE RISING BRITISH UNHAPPINESS WITH AMERICAN POLICY BUT NOTES THAT, WHILE ROBUST EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT BY EG SENATOR MOYNIHAN, HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED, HAIGS DESCRIPTION OF BRITAIN AS AMERICA'S CLOSEST ALLY PRODUCED A MIXED REACTION OF BITTERNESS AND IRONY. RATTNER CONCLUDES THAT, TO MANY IN BRITAIN, THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE IS REMINISCENT OF SUEZ, HE QUOTES THE TIMES AS SAYING THAT BRITAIN WILL DRAW UNFAVOURABLE CONCLUSIONS FOR THE FUTURE IF THE US REMAINS UNCOMMITTED AND LINKS THIS TO EXISTING PUBLIC UNHAPPINESS AT US DEFENCE POLICY AND AT THE NUMBER OF US MILITARY BASES IN BRITAIN.

3. A SHORT ARTICLE IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST COVERS SIMILAR GROUND BUT SUGGESTS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE US TO BEHAVE LIKE AN ALLY IF THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE DETERIORATES.

HENDERSON