

TYPISTS

ANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29) (31)

IMMEDIATE

PS No.10 DOWNING ST.

PS

~~PS/LPS~~

PS/MR ONSLOW

PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/PUS

MR GIFFARD

MR WRIGHT

~~MR ADAMS~~ MR BULLARD

MR URE

MR GILLMORE

MR GOODISON

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)

HD/DEF D

HD/NEWS D

HD/UND

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/HKGD

HD/EESD

HD/NAD

RESIDENT CLERK

PS/CHANCELLOR

SIR K COUZENS

MR LITTLER

MR HAWTIN

MR PERETZ

MR ILETT

MR McINTYRE

H.M.TSY

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

Sir R Armstrong, Cab. Off.

DIO CABINET OFFICE

MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE

MR FULLER ~~MD~~ CABINET OFFICE

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MOSCOW 191400Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 210 OF 19 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO

MY TEL NO 198 : FALKLAND ISLANDS : SOVIET ATTITUDE

1. SINCE MY TUR SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE HAS PAID AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE, HOSTILE ATTENTION TO THE US AS TO THE UK. THE THEME OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM, LED BY THE US AND BRITAIN, GANGING UP AGAINST ARGENTINA HAS BEEN STEADILY DEVELOPED.
2. PRAVDA OF 17 APRIL REPORTED THAT THE US WAS SEEKING A MAJOR BASE ON THE ISLANDS. PRAVDA OF 19 APRIL SAID THAT IN THE VIEW OF POLITICAL OBSERVERS THE PROPOSAL FOR A TRILATERAL ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAIG WOULD BE PUTTING TO LONDON WAS MERELY A SLIGHTLY REVISED VERSION OF THE "NEO-COLONIALIST PLAN" ALREADY PROPOSED BY THE USA "WHOSE AIM IS TO STRENGTHEN WASHINGTON'S OWN POSITION IN THIS REGION". IZVESTIA OF 17 APRIL SPOKE OF WIDENING US INTERFERENCE WHILE PRAVDA OF 19 APRIL COMMENTED THAT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT WASHINGTON HAD BEEN ON THE SIDE OF ITS BRITISH NATO ALLY FROM THE BEGINNING.

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NATO ALLY FROM THE BEGINNING.

3. THE THEME OF THE WEST VERSUS ARGENTINA WAS ELABORATED IN PRAVDA'S AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW ON 18 APRIL. THE WEST CLAIMED THAT IT HAD REJECTED COLONIALISM, BUT THERE WAS STRIKING UNANIMITY IN NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGAINST THE RETURN OF THE ISLANDS TO ARGENTINA. MOREOVER, WESTERN CAPITAL WAS THREATENING TO EXPLOIT ARGENTINA'S 32 BILLION DOLLAR DEBT. THE US CLAIMED NEUTRALITY BUT ITS DUPLICITY WAS CLEARER EVERY DAY AND IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE US PRESS THAT IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUPPORT BRITAIN. TO COVER ITS NEO-COLONIALIST PLAN FOR A TRILATERAL ADMINISTRATION THE UNITED STATES HAD PROPOSED A MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. THIS WAS JUST AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A US MILITARY PRESENCE, AS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. AN UNEXPECTED VARIATION ON THE OTHERWISE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED LINE ABOVE WAS PROVIDED ON 19 APRIL BY THE "INTERNATIONAL PANORAMA" TELEVISION PROGRAMME WHICH WAS GENERALLY A LESS DOCTRINAIRE APPROACH. BOVIN, A WELL-KNOWN COMMENTATOR, GAVE A REASONABLY OBJECTIVE HISTORY OF THE DISPUTE. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT SCR 502 CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE TROOPS, THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD ABSTAINED IN THE VOTE (THE FIRST TIME, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, THAT THIS HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE MEDIA), THAT THE FALKLANDERS DID NOT WANT TO COME UNDER ARGENTINE RULE, AND THAT THE INVASION HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY SERIOUS INTERNAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN ARGENTINA. ALTHOUGH BOVIN'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT BRITAIN WAS IN THE WRONG FOR PROLONGING A COLONIAL SITUATION, A WIDE SOVIET AUDIENCE WILL HAVE REALISED THAT THE PICTURE IS FAR LESS BLACK AND WHITE THAN DEPICTED BY THE PRESS.

BROOKE TURNER

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