

TYPISTS

28

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

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Sir R. Armstrong, Cab. Off.

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 74 OF 19 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS, BRUSSELS. INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS GENEVA, COPENHAGEN. INFO ROUTINE CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, OTTAWA, TOKYO, VIENNA, BERNE, STOCKHOLM, HELSINKI, LISBON, MADRID, BONN, PARIS, ROME. INFO SAVING REYKJAVIK AND OTHER EC POSTS.

MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 73 : FALKLANDS : NORWEGIAN BAN ON ARGENTINE IMPORTS.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MET STARTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THIS MORNING AND OBTAINED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR DECISION TO BAN IMPORTS FROM ARGENTINA. GOVERNMENT NOW AIM FOR APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION BY KING-IN-COUNCIL ON FRIDAY 23 APRIL.
2. MFA ARE THIS AFTERNOON ISSUING FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE:

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QUOTE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF ARGENTINA'S ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ACCORDING TO A DECISION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON 19 APRIL, WILL THIS WEEK PUT FORWARD A LAW TO IMPLEMENT A BAN ON IMPORTS FROM ARGENTINA. AUTHORITY FOR PROHIBITING THE EXPORT OF ARMS TO ARGENTINA EXISTS ALREADY. THE IMPORT BAN WILL NOT INCLUDE CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE LAW, NOR GOODS ALREADY IN TRANSIT FROM ARGENTINA UNQUOTE.

LEGISLATION ABOUT ARMS SALES REFERRED TO IN STATEMENT FORBIDS SUCH TRANSACTIONS WITH NON-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES.

3. IN HIS BIENNIAL STATEMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY IN THE STARTING ON 19 APRIL, BEFORE GOVERNMENT DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED, STRAY DESCRIBED ARGENTINA'S ACTION AS QUOTE PARTICULARLY SERIOUS BECAUSE IT FURTHER UNDERMINES THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF RULES DESIGNED TO PREVENT ARMED CONFLICT UNQUOTE. FOREIGN MINISTER URGED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY QUOTE TO MAKE BREACHES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW INCREASINGLY COSTLY....A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON ALL COUNTRIES WISHING TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THE DEFENCE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF LAW FOR INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHICH MEASURES CAN CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO PUTTING AN END TO THE ARBITRARY USE OF FORCE UNQUOTE. NORWAY HAD CONDUCTED QUOTE VERY DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC COUNTRIES TO CLARIFY THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORMS OF REACTION. WE HAVE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL REACTION BE OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT UNQUOTE. (FULL TEXT BY BAG)

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING REYKJAVIK AND OTHER EC POSTS.

PALMER

NNNN

SENT AT 191631Z MP