

When to: TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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**IMMEDIATE**

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GRS 240

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MONTEVIDEO 211334Z APRIL 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 164 OF 21 APRIL  
FALKLAND ISLANDS : URUGUAYAN PUBLIC OPINION

1. IN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CRISIS THE URUGUAYANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL STANCE, SUPPORTED THE ARGENTINE CLAIM BUT NEVERTHELESS REGRETTED ARGENTINA'S USE OF FORCE TO IMPLEMENT IT. FURTHERMORE THEY WERE ALARMED BY THE CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF PRESIDENT GALTIERI'S SPEECH AT THE PLAZO DE MAYO DEMONSTRATION ON 10 APRIL.
2. OPINION HAS NOW TURNED DUE TO :

- (A) THE APPROACH OF THE TASK FORCE AND THE FEAR OF HOSTILITIES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC,
- (B) THE FEELING THAT SOME KIND OF JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF THE FALKLANDS MIGHT PROVIDE A REASONABLE SOLUTION. URUGUAY'S LONG-STANDING DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE ISLAND OF MARTIN GARCIA



STANDING DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE ISLAND OF MARTIN GARCIA WAS SETTLED IN THE TREATY OF THE RIVER PLATE ON THE BASIS OF SHARED RIGHTS OVER THE ISLAND.

(C) REPORTS THAT THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS THEMSELVES ARE DIVIDED ABOUT THE FUTURE AND IN THE MAIN DO NOT WANT TO BE THE CAUSE OF MAJOR HOSTILITIES.

(D) INCREASING REALISATION BY THE PUBLIC OF THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR URUGUAY OF THE RIO TREATY.

(E) THE ECONOMIC MEASURES TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHICH COULD AFFECT URUGUAY'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN WHAT IS ALREADY A VERY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION. WE HAVE HEARD WORRIES ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CERTAIN JOINT PROJECTS EG SALTO GRANDE IF ARGENTINA CANNOT SERVICE THE LOANS OF HER SHARE OF SUCH PROJECTS.

3. THESE ARE IMPORTANT INDICATIONS COMING FROM A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY WHICH OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE CLOSEST TO US.

HUTCHINSON

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 211407Z SF/