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PS/CHANCELLOR

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MR LITTLER

MR HAWTIN

MR PERETZ

MR ILETT

MR MCINTYRE

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(FM BERNE 231805Z)

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
FROM BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION BUENOS AIRES (BISBA)
TELNO 41 OF 23 APRIL

ms.

YOUR TELNO 163: ARGENTINE WAR ZONE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY RODOLFO BALTIERREZ, PUBLIC INFORMATION SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY, PUBLISHED BY ''LA NACION'' OF THURSDAY, 8 APRIL:

QUOTE

THE CREATION OF THE 'SOUTH ATLANTIC OPERATIONS THEATRE' IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE DEFENCE OF OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IN THE LARGE AREA IT COVERS: 200 MARITIME MILES FORM THE CONTINENTAL COAST AND AROUND THE RECONQUERED ISLANDS OF MALVINAS, GEORGIAS AND SOUTH SANDWICH.

ONCE THE 'THEATRE' HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE MILITARY
COMMITTEE MAY ORDER ACTIONS OF SELF-DEFENCE IN SITUATIONS THAT
COULD ENDANGER NATIONAL SECURITY.

VICE-ADMIRAL JUAN JOSE LOMBARDO, -COMMANDER OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,

VICE-ADMIRAL JUAN JOSE LOMBARDO, COMMANDER OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, HAS BEEN APPOINTED COMMANDER OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OPERATIONS THEATRE. UNQUOTE 2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO FU THER DETAILS HAVE BEEN BUBLISHED. JOY 23.4. UNQUOTE LEE NNNN SENT/RECD AT 231844Z JMM/IA TO MONTEVALED 90 500 ENER ESTAGE