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FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP : 0730, 24 APRIL : OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

Secretary of State's Visit to Washington

1. The Secretary of State is due back from Washington at 9.30 am today.

Argentina

2. President Galtieri has returned to Buenos Aires following his much-publicised visit to the Falkland Islands and Southern Argentina (during which, significantly, he did not meet any of the Islanders). He announced at a press conference that there could be no compromise on sovereignty but transitional arrangements could be considered to protect the Islanders' interests.

3. The State Department have confirmed that NASA have complied with the Argentine request for Landsat coverage of the Falkland Islands. The satellite took the required pictures over the period 21-23 April. The quality is likely to be poor because of cloud cover.

4. The Swiss have confirmed delivery to the Argentine Government of our communication about the approach of Argentine naval vessels and military aircraft. Sir A Parsons recommends that the text be conveyed to the President of the Security Council for circulation.

5. The BBC carried the further message to the British community in Argentina recommending that, in the light of a possible increase in tension with the approach of the Task Force, they should consider again whether they should leave Argentina. A British national (Mr Gordon-Davis), who went missing on 20 April, had in fact been held for questioning by the Argentine Police and has now been released. The Argentine News Agency has reported that the 3 British journalists are to be held in custody although the judge is quoted as saying that they may be released as early as Monday.

6. Washington quote a Reuters report indicating that Argentina's largest finance company has been put into liquidation.

OAS

7. Although a majority of Latin American states may support Argentina at the OAS Foreign Ministers' meeting on 26 April, there does not seem to be overwhelming support for strong retaliatory measures, but this may well depend on military developments. Moderating voices may well be Uruguay (whose Foreign Minister is likely to be in the Chair), Mexico (who

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will oppose sanctions), Brazil (who in the last resort are likely to toe the common line), Bolivia and Chile. Even Venezuela is hoping that political rhetoric will suffice. The Nicaraguan Foreign Minister has publicly reiterated his country's strong support for the Argentine position.

8. The Brazilian Foreign Minister has confirmed that Brazil is ready to supply military equipment to Argentina but not troops.

#### UN

9. Mr Denis Healey called on the UN Secretary-General and found general agreement that it would be wrong to take any additional initiative whilst Mr Haig's negotiations were continuing. The UN Secretariat were nevertheless working hard on contingency planning, in case the UN was asked to intervene. Mr Healey also urged the American Government to end its neutral posture and put maximum pressure on Argentina.

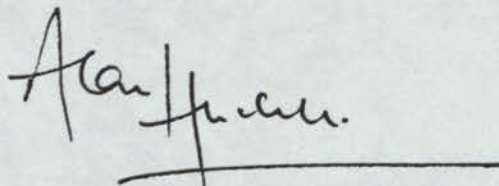
10. The Kenyan Representative at the UN spoke strongly and helpfully in support of our position on the Falklands during the Emergency Special Session on Palestine.

11. The Non-Aligned Movement's Drafting Group met but agreed no changes to the existing text which will now be referred to the NAM Coordinating Bureau next week. Sir A Parsons recommends further lobbying of friendly countries.

12. The Opanal Secretariat have confirmed that, despite an Argentine approach, no decision has yet been taken on whether to summon a full meeting of Opanal signatories under the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

#### Enquiry

13. Mr Luce has called for an early enquiry into the history of the Falkland Islands negotiations. He has been supported in this by Mr David Steel.



24 April 1982

A E Huckle  
Emergency Unit

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