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FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP : 0730 25 APRIL :
OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

Argentina

1. Sir Anthony Parsons has informed the Security Council of our communication to the Argentine Government about the approach of Argentine naval vessels and military aircraft. The MOD issued a press release on this subject at 0100, the time that the information was expected to become public in New York. The Argentine news agency, Noticias Argentinas, has reported that the Argentine Government has handed a note to the Security Council saying it will repulse any British attack and claiming that in doing so Argentina would be exercising the right of legitimate defence.

The United States

2. There has been a further exchange of messages between the Prime Minister and Mr Haig. Mr Haig will now put to the Argentine Foreign Minister the same proposal as that put to the Government here, saying that HMG is now considering it but that he does not know whether it is acceptable to them. He will be in touch with us again as soon as a reply is received from Argentina.

3. Mr Denis Healey has had talks in Washington with Mr Eagleburger and Mr Haig. Our Embassy in Washington received the impression from Mr Healey that he was reassured about US intentions to ensure that British interests were safeguarded. He had noted that the US had throughout spoken of the rights of the Falkland Islanders and wondered whether the language of Article 73 of the UN Charter (about the paramountcy of the interests of the inhabitants of non-self-governing territories) could be usefully adopted in the negotiations.

4. Speaking to the press, Mr Healey said that negotiations were very delicately poised and that the rôle of the United States was essential and offered the best hope of a settlement. If the present negotiations failed, the United Nations would have to be brought in. This would allow the United States to align itself more closely with Britain.

5. Sir Nicholas Henderson is to do a network television show at 1130 Washington local time. He will telephone the Emergency Unit at 1400 hours GMT to bring himself up to date with latest developments.

OAS

6. News Agency reports from Caracas say that the Venezuelan Air Force has been put on alert with a view to supporting Argentina.

/General

General

7. Arrangements are being made to repatriate the Captain of HMS Uganda, who is ill, by an RAF medical flight from Freetown where 'Uganda' was due to arrive at 0700 hours.

25 April 1982

E J Sharland

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Emergency Unit

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