

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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SECRET

FM LIMA 251852Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELGRAM NUMBER 118 OF 25 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, SANTIAGO

FALKLANDS

1. IN SOME OF MY RECENT TELEGRAMS (NOS 88 OF 13 APRIL AND NO 111 OF 22 APRIL) I HAVE REFERRED TO THE PRESSURES BEING APPLIED BY THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES FOR A CLEARER PRO-ARGENTINE DEFINITION OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL POSTURE INCLUDING THE PROSPECT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT.

2. SOURCES CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED TO ME THAT THERE MIGHT BE IN EXISTENCE A SECRET UNDERTAKING BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE AND PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES DATING FROM THE TIME OF THE VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES IN 1979 OF THE THEN PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE

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TH THEN PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE
AFTERMATH OF THE ARGENTINE/CHILEAN BEAGLE CHANNEL CONFRONTATION
THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE TERMS OF THE UNDERTAKING WOULD COMMIT
THE ARMED FORCES OF EACH COUNTRY TO THE DEFENCE OF THE OTHER
IN CASE OF AGGRESSION BY A THIRD, CLEARLY WITH CHILE UPPERMOST IN
MIND. THE EXISTENCE OF THIS UNDERTAKING MAY HAVE HITHERTO BEEN
CONCEALED FROM THE PRESENT PERUVIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

IT HAS CERTAINLY NOT BEEN APPROVED OR RATIFIED BY THE CONGRESS
AND IS THEREFORE UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

3. IF TRUE, THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE REPEATED PERUVIAN ATTEMPTS
TO ASSUME DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL INITIATIVES WITH WHICH TO
COUNTER THE PRESSURES FOR THE MILITARY COMMITMENT FOR WHICH THE
ARGENTINE-BORN PERUVIAN MINISTER OF WAR IS THE MOST VOCIFEROUS
PROPOONENT. THE NAVY ARE SAID TO BE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC. IT
COULD ALSO EXPLAIN THE REPEATED BUT UNCONFIRMED RUMOURS OF
THE MOVEMENT OF PERUVIAN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF ARGENTINA.
BUT THE COMBINATION OF PUBLIC EMOTION, PRESS AND POPULAR OPINION
AND MILITARY PRESSURE MAY WEAKEN THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION
TO MAINTAIN A CONCILIATORY AND CIRCUMSPECT INTERNATIONAL
ATTITUDE, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES.

4. MY US COLLEAGUE TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT HE HAD CARRIED OUT
THE INSTRUCTIONS REFERRED TO IN WASHINGTON TEL TO FCO NO 1439
WITH SOME DIFFICULTY HAVING INITIALLY SAILED TO REACH THE FOREIGN
MINISTER WHO HAD SPENT THREE AND A HALF HOURS ATTENDING A MEETING
AS THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.

5. IN ANY RESPONSE TO THE LATEST PERUVIAN INITIATIVE (MY TEL NO
115) AND TO ANY FURTHER PROPOSALS THEY MAY MAKE EITHER HERE OR IN
THE OAS MEETING, YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE GROWING
PRESSURES WHICH PRESIDENT BELAUNDE PROBABLY NOW REGARDS AS A
THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND TO THE CONTINUING
EXISTENCE OF A DEMOCRATIC REGIME IN PERU.

WALLACE