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FALKLAND ISLANDS: ARGENTINE PRESS REACTION
7-8 MAY 1982

Two high-ranking government officials of Peru and Venezuela voiced assurances here today that those two American nations are willing to provide military aid to Argentina, in case a request is extended by the latter within the framework of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR)....

Noticias Argentinas, Buenos Aires,
7 May 1982.

The Press Office of the Military Governor of the Malvinas Georgias and South Sandwich Islands has reported the discovery of an inflatable boat close to Puerto Argentino used by British marines in an abortive attempt to land on the island. The boat has a maximum capacity of 12 and according to its markings apparently belongs to the aircraft carrier *Hermes*. Survival kit found in the boat show that it was abandoned without the objective of the mission being achieved. Military authorities stress the absolute certainty that the British attempt to infiltrate troops onto the island did not succeed....

Telam, Argentine News Agency,
7 May 1982.

Comodoro Rivadavia, 7 May (NA) - Aerolineas Argentinas and Austral Airlines will resume their commercial flights to Comodoro Rivadavia as of 1130 today....

Noticias Argentinas, Buenos Aires
7 May 1982.

In a letter to the *Herald* yesterday, *American Time Magazine* correspondent William McWhirter, writing from the Plaza Hotel, said that a report by the news agencies *Noticias Argentinas* and *Diarios y Noticias* published in yesterday's *Herald* about five foreign reporters in Bahia Blanca being detained on Tuesday night for covering the government imposed evening blackout in that city was "erroneous". He said in the letter that "None of the journalists were arrested, detained or charged with improper activities".... He went on to say that "our materials were not searched or confiscated and we were ordered to leave on the following day's flights", adding, "all this can be confirmed through police and army officials in Bahia Blanca"....

In view of the possibility of British attacks against the mainland - a possibility which was increased today with the extension of the blockade - the Defence Minister, Amadeo Frugoli, stressed that "Argentina will defend itself wherever and whenever the need arises in accordance with whatever aggressive action Britain may take in an escalation which seems to be being extended.

Noticias Argentinas, Buenos Aires,
7 May 1982.

Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, the Chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), has charged that the British Government has cunningly taken advantage of its nuclear power in attacks against a country (Argentina) that is carrying out a nuclear programme for peaceful objectives....

The Argentine Government had expressed its concern over the fact that the British fleet was probably carrying nuclear military material. He adds that this presumption has now been confirmed with the sinking of the cruiser General Belgrano, which was attacked by a nuclear submarine....

Telam, Argentine News Agency,
7 May 1982.

The Argentine Defence Minister, Amadeo Frugoli, is quoted by the *Noticias Argentinas Agency* tonight as saying that ... along with the patrol boat Sobral another Argentine boat and a Polish fishing boat had been attacked from the air, but he did not say what condition these ships were in.

Noticias Argentinas, Buenos Aires,
7 May 1982.

The Argentine Government has denounced the lack of good faith of the United Kingdom which, despite declaring its interest in holding negotiations and in achieving a peaceful solution, has contradicted its stated intentions with concrete deeds and created situations which seriously undermine the possibilities of holding negotiations....

Telam, Argentine News Agency,
8 May 1982.

Information Department

Distribution:

Mr P R H Wright
Mr C S R Giffard
Lord N Gordon Lennox
Mr J B Ure
Mr K G MacInnes, Information Department
Mr P J Weston, Defence Department
Mr N Fenn, News Department
Mr P R Fearn, South America Department
Mr J Doble, Information Department
Mr J Dew, Emergency Unit
Mr R A Facey, South America Department
Mr I S McDonald, Deputy Chief of Public Relations, MOD
Col T Sneyd, MOD
Mr J Todd, Cabinet Office Assessment Staff
Emergency Unit
Information Department

FALKLAND ISLANDS; ARGENTINE PRESS REACTION
6-10 MAY 1982

Defense Minister Amadeo Frugoli today stated at the auditorium of the Sheraton Hotel that Argentina is not an aggressor country, that the aggression is being perpetrated by Great Britain and that Argentina will respond to that aggression with every means, at the right place and in due time....

... When asked whether a possible Soviet help would displace Argentina from the Western world he answered that Argentina has not considered the possibility of accepting that kind of military aid, concerning a shifting from the West, stressing that this should be understood in the sense that Argentina has contributed to the nurturing and the defense of the fundamental values of the Western world....

Telam, Buenos Aires, 6 May 1982.

Argentine Foreign Minister on UN negotiations: This evening Foreign Minister Necanor Costa Mendez stated that in all this something which really bothers us is the continuing British campaign to misrepresent us, to present us as being reticent and above all transigent when this is really not the case....

Telam, Buenos Aires, 8 May 1982.

The joint staff hereby states that the British Government's decision to extend the total exclusion zone to 12 nautical miles within the Argentine coast has once again confirmed the position as aggressor of that government.

In the face of this new event, it is reiterated that the armed forces are able and ready to act to the extent that might be necessary to guarantee fulfillment of the established military objectives in the South Atlantic.

*Buenos Aires Domestic Service,
9 May 1982.*

It has been learned in military circles that the government is studying the possibility of expropriating British properties and of cancelling contracts with British companies.

This possible measure is under consideration in view of new measures of war escalation adopted by Great Britain....

*Noticias Argentinas, Buenos Aires,
9 May 1982.*

Comodoro Rivadavia: ... A military source indicated that in the military hospital of the Don Bosco neighbourhood there are 40 soldiers with different illnesses which are not serious but he emphasised that they are not wounded.

It has also been confirmed that about 15 soldiers wounded at the front were transferred to several hospitals in the federal capital:...

Noticias Argentinas, Buenos Aires,
9 May 1982.

While Venezuelan radio and television were today deploring the British attack against the Argentine fishing boat Narwal near the Malvinas Islands, Miraflores Palace sources, the Venezuelan Government Palace, noted the possibility that Venezuela may sever diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom....

... A source close to government circles reported that "in view of the escalation of British aggression against Argentina, Venezuela may decide to sever relations with the United Kingdom in a few hours".

Saporiti, Buenos Aires, 10 May 1982.

Argentine Defense Minister, Amadeo Frugoli, reported tonight that British Forces attacked today Puerto Argentino and Puerto Darwing using in the attack against Puerto Argentino, Beluga-type bombs that have an area of action of 40 by 120 meters which have been prohibited by the Geneva Convention:...

... Frugoli added that after this, the British Forces attacked and sunk the Argentine fishing boat Narwal "which was in the area carrying out specific tasks (tareas especificas) that did not pose any threat to the British Fleet. The Narwal was sunk by a sea harrier which later did not hesitate to machinegun the rafts that were hurled to the sea by the survivors, and even a raft that was filled with sick and wounded. This is an outrageous attack that violates the most elemental human feelings. This is why I do not hesitate to call it an inhuman deed, a hideous barbarian act that goes against all those values of the free world which the British Government has claimed to defend and uphold"....

Telam, Buenos Aires, 10 May 1982.

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