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SOUTH ATLANTIC PRESENTATION UNIT (SAPU)

The attached paper contains information on the efforts that are being made to put across Britain's case overseas.

Cabinet Office

20 May 1982

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OVERSEAS INFORMATION EFFORT

Since the Argentine invasion on 2 April special efforts have been made to put across Britain's case overseas. British diplomatic posts abroad have been fully briefed by means of material including 36 verbatim texts of important government statements, 42 telegrams giving guidance to posts worldwide on specific issues, and 8 full length "Background Briefs". Our Ambassadors and their staffs have spoken frequently on TV and radio and to the media.

The Central Office of Information have produced a short film and are preparing another. They and HMSO have distributed widely a pamphlet "The Falkland Islands - The Facts" in 6 languages for which the print runs have so far totalled 60,000 (and which is available to all MPs). The COI are also sending to all posts a photo-display on the Falkland Islands. Their London Press Service is producing an average of two articles a day covering important developments. In addition COI are sending a daily summary in Spanish of important ministerial statements to our Latin American posts. They have also started a radio service for 8 Spanish speaking countries as an extension of their "Newslines" service already sent to 6,000 radio stations in the United States and other English speaking countries. In all these COI services full use is made of statements put out by the Ministry of Defence.

FCO News Department's regular press conferences have attracted a larger than usual attendance by foreign correspondents resident in London. Regular unattributable briefings have also been given for foreign correspondents. In addition the Prime Minister's Press Secretary, assisted by the FCO, has given weekly briefings for members of the Foreign Press Association.

The BBC External Services

Apart from the 24 hour-a-day World Service in English there are 36 vernacular language services all giving extensive coverage of the Falklands issue. The British case is getting across well as is proved by Argentine efforts to jam the BBC's Spanish Service to Latin America. FCO have authorised an increase in the number of hours broadcast in this latter Service from 4 hours per day before the crisis to 5½ hours now, and the BBC are using more frequencies to get round jamming. The BBC's special 40 minute English broadcasts to the Falklands have gone up from 1 a week to 7 and FCO Ministers have spoken regularly on them.

Overseas Television

Most overseas TV stations have contracts with the BBC's and ITV's Agencies Visnews and UPITN and are putting out the same material as is seen on British TV screens. Certain foreign TV companies have arranged special interviews with British Ministers.

MOD Broadcasts (Radio Atlantico del Sur)

The Government has taken over one of the BBC's transmitters to broadcast its own programmes specifically to the Argentine occupation forces on the Falklands. The objective is to give the Argentine troops a true picture of events in the South Atlantic and of the present crisis rather than the highly distorted version given by Argentine propaganda. Because of the very specific aims of the station, is being operated, and the programmes produced by, the Ministry of Defence and neither the BBC or COI will be involved.