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UNCLASSIFIED
FROM MONTEVIDEO 242022Z MAY 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 366 OF 24 MAY 1982.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: URUGUAYAN ATTITUDE.

IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS LAST NIGHT (23 MAY) THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNED THE BRITISH ATTACK ON ARGENTINA ; CALLED FOR A CEASEFIRE AND ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS SUPPORT FOR COLONIALIST POLICIES OF CONFRONTATION. IN HIS STATEMENT OTERO CLAIMED OUR JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA HAD NO RELATION TO THE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE ARE EXTREMELY SENSATIVE TO ANY CONFLICTS WITH ARGENTINA - A COUNTRY WITH WHICH URUGUAY HAS CLOSE HISTORICAL LINKS OF TRUE BROTHERHOOD.

HUTCHINSON

NNNR
SENT AT 24/1928Z TWW