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GR 210
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DESKBY FCO 031000Z
FM KATHMANDU 080600Z JUNE 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 73 OF 3 JUNE
INFO PRIORITY DELHI

FALKLANDS: GURKHAS

1. WE HAVE NO (REPEAT NO) EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CLAIMS IN THE INDIAN PRESS THAT THERE ARE STRONG FEELINGS IN NEPAL ABOUT GURKHA INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. THE LINE TAKEN BY OFFICIALS AND ARMY OFFICERS REMAINS ROBUST. AT SOME STAGE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF WE SENT A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT, BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER THIS FURTHER IN THE LIGHT OF MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FALKLANDS, IN PARTICULAR THE INVOLVEMENT OF GURKHAS IN COMBAT.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MOST USEFUL MEANS OF MAINTAINING THE PRESENT HELPFUL NEPALESE ATTITUDE IS BY INFORMING OFFICIALS AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON. I AM AFRAID THAT YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 60 WAS NOT VERY HELPFUL IN THIS RESPECT. IT HAS BEEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE FOR SOME TIME THAT THE GURKHAS HAVE LANDED ON EAST FALKLAND. MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HEARD THIS FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT A WEEK AGO. THE BBC WORLD SERVICE ON 7 JUNE STATED THAT 60 ARGENTINE TROOPS HAD BEEN KILLED DURING CLASHES WITH ROYAL MARINES AND GURKHA PATROLS DURING THE LAST 5 DAYS. I AM BOUND TO BE QUESTIONED BY THE NEPALESE ABOUT THIS. I MUST THEREFORE REPEAT THE REQUEST I HAVE MADE ON A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (MY TELEGRAMS NOS 49, 59, 62, 66 AND 70) THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO TAKE THE NEPALESE INTO OUR CONFIDENCE.

DENSON

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