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FOBON013/10

ZZ BONN

GRS 528

SECRET

FM FCO 100544Z JUN 82

TO FLASH BONN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 296 OF 10 JUNE

FOR PS/NO.10 AND PS

FALKLANDS : SITREPS

(A) DIPLOMATIC

VULCAN

1. THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT HAS CONVEYED HIS AGREEMENT THAT THE VULCAN AIRCRAFT MAY LEAVE BRAZIL BUT THE MISSILE SHOULD REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF THE CONFLICT. HE HAS ASKED FOR AN UNDERTAKING THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD PLAY NO FURTHER PART IN WARLIKE OPERATIONS IN THE FALKLANDS. ON INSTRUCTIONS, HM AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED TO THESE TERMS AND GIVEN THE UNDERTAKING.

ASTIZ

2. NEWS THAT THE ARGENTINE PRISONER OF WAR, LT COMMANDER ASTIZ, IS TO BE REPATRIATED ON 10 JUNE HAS NOW LEAKED (PRIMARILY THROUGH AIRLINE SOURCES AT HEATHROW). OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN ARE, HOWEVER, STILL TAKING THE LINE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS TRAVEL ARE NOT YET CERTAIN.

GALTIERI

3. THE ITALIANS HAVE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE OF AN INTERVIEW PRESIDENT GALTIERI HAS GIVEN TO AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST WHICH IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED SOON IN THE TIMES. GALTIERI, WHO WAS TENSE AND TIRED, SAID HE WOULD RETIRE BEFORE THE END OF HIS MANDATE IN 1984 IF THAT WERE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. HE DID NOT CORRECT THE JOURNALIST WHEN SHE TOOK THE FALL OF PORT STANLEY FOR GRANTED, BUT IMPLIED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD NEVERTHELESS GAIN THE VICTORY IN THE LONGER TERM.

(B) MILITARY AS PROVIDED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

OWN FORCES

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE LANDING FORCES DEPLOYMENT. THE BUILD-UP OF FORWARD POSITIONS PARTICULARLY THOSE OF 5 INF BRIGADE CONTINUES COUPLED WITH AGGRESSIVE PATROLLING FORWARD. THE ARGENTINE AIR RAIDS OF 8 JUNE WHICH CAUSED THE LOSS OF THE LSLs SIR GALAHAD AND SIR TRISTRAM HAVE CAUSED MORE CASUALTIES AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES THAN WAS FIRST THOUGHT: 5 INF BRIGADE HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES OF EQUIPMENT OF 1 WELSH GUARDS (AFFECTING THE CAPABILITY OF TWO COMPANIES AND THE MORTAR PLATOON), THE FIELD AMBULANCE UNIT LOST ALL ITS EQUIPMENT AND 9 PARA SQUADRON ROYAL ENGINEERS FIFTY PER CENT. THE BRIGADE HQ ALSO LOST A NUMBER OF VEHICLES. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE LOSSES MAY BE MADE UP FROM THE LANDING FORCE RESERVES BUT THIS SET BACK COULD DELAY PLANNED OPERATIONS.

INCIDENTS/ACCIDENTS

5. EXCEPT FOR MINOR PATROL CLASHES NO INCIDENTS WITH THE ENEMY OR ACCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

CASUALTIES

6. BECAUSE OF THE OPERATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE DIFFERENT PLACES TO WHICH THE CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE DELAY IN FINALISING THE CASUALTY DETAILS. HOWEVER IN THE BOMBING ATTACKS ON 8 JUNE:-

(A) IT IS KNOWN THERE WERE NO DEATHS ON HMS PLYMOUTH BUT 5 WERE INJURED. NEXT-OF-KIN HAVE BEEN INFORMED:

(B) OF THE 17 MEN IN THE LANDING CRAFT 11 WERE PICKED UP BY SEA KING HELICOPTERS. ONE ROYAL MARINE IS KNOWN TO HAVE DIED AND 5 ARE MISSING PRESUMED DEAD:

(C) BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE DAMAGE TO SIR GALAHAD AND HER FULLY LOADED STATE AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK FULL DETAILS OF THE CASUALTIES ARE NOT YET KNOWN BUT IT IS FEARED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF KILLED AND INJURED. INITIAL FIGURES RECEIVED ARE IN THE ORDER OF 50-60 INJURED BUT THE FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO RISE. THREE SHIPS OFFICERS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED AND NUMEROUS INJURIES TO THE CHINESE CREW OCCURRED BECAUSE IT IS THOUGHT ONE BOMB EXPLODED IN THE GALLEY/MESS AREA.

INTENTIONS

7. NO CHANGE.

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