

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (40)

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PS/MR [redacted] RD
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PS/PIIS ← PS/MR RIFKIND
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
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PS/CHANCELIOR }
MR ILETT } TREASURY
MR LITTLER }
MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
SIR M PALLISER } CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY }
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO }
DIO }

~~Room 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET~~

EMERGENCY UNIT
RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

[Passed to E.R.]
[Typists a.a.]

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FM WASHINGTON 162036Z JUN 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2155 OF 16 JUNE
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK.

FALKLANDS: U.S. PUBLIC REACTIONS

1. THE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY WELCOMING THE CEASE-FIRE, HOPING THAT THE LOSS OF LIFE WHICH HAS OCCURRED CAN NOW BE BROUGHT TO AN END AND STATING THAT THE U.S. QUOTE CONTINUES TO STAND READY TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY IT CAN TO HELP RESOLVE THIS CONFLICT UNQUOTE.

2 THE MEDIA COVERAGE PAYS TRIBUTE TO WHAT WEINBERGER DESCRIBED IN AN ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE LAST WEEK AS THE QUOTE MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE OF BRITISH ARMS UNQUOTE. THE NEW YORK TIMES IN AN EDITORIAL YESTERDAY DESCRIBED IT AS A QUOTE MERCIFUL FALKLANDS FINISH UNQUOTE. IN THE TIMES TODAY DREW MIDDLETON ATTRIBUTES THE BRITISH VICTORY TO THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE BRITISH FORCES AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE LED. EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON THE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE OPERATING, THE MUCH LARGER NUMBERS OPPOSING THEM, AND THE SKILL WITH WHICH THE FINAL OPERATIONS ON PORT STANLEY WERE CONDUCTED. RESULTING IN A COMPLETE

LARGER NUMBERS OPPOSING THEM, AND THE SKILL WITH WHICH THE FINAL ATTACKS ON PORT STANLEY WERE CONDUCTED, RESULTING IN A COMPLETE ARGENTINIAN COLLAPSE WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE LOSS OF LIFE. THE PRESS ALSO EMPHASIZE THE DETERMINATION SHOWN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE GOVERNMENT IN LEADING TO THIS RESULT AND THE STRENGTH OF PUBLIC SUPPORT IN BRITAIN.

3. THROUGHOUT THE EDITORIAL COMMENT, ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE POLITICAL AFTERMATH OF THE VICTORY. THE FACT THAT THE JUNTA ARE NOW DIVIDED AND IN DEEP TROUBLE WITHIN ARGENTINA IS EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT THE PRESS WHICH ALSO NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SUCCESSOR REGIME WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO PURSUE THE ARGENTINE CLAIM TO THE FALKLANDS. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS ARE WIDELY REPORTED, AS IS THE DECISION TO SEND BACK THE GOVERNOR. THE PRESS NOTE THAT GREATER SELF-GOVERNMENT MAY NOW BE GRANTED AND GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS THAT THERE MAY BE SCOPE FOR U.S. AND SOME LATIN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR LONGER TERM SECURITY. THEY POINT TO THE LONGER TERM COSTS OF A SIMPLE RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE FOR BRITAIN AND FOR WESTERN INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA AND CONTINUE TO URGE THE NEED FOR A QUOTE SENSIBLE SETTLEMENT UNQUOTE (WITHOUT, HOWEVER, COMING UP WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR A STATUS FOR THE ISLANDS WHICH COULD RECONCILE THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION WITH ARGENTINIAN PRETENSIONS). CONCERN IS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO DEFEND THE ISLANDS IN THE ABSENCE OF A SETTLEMENT AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO OF THE BRITISH NAVAL AND AIR DEFENCE RESOURCES WHICH WILL NEED TO BE COMMITTED. THE WASHINGTON POST, IN ANOTHER HAND-WRINGING EDITORIAL, ARGUES THAT ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT POLICY BRITAIN WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY TO DIVERT A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF ITS MILITARY RESOURCES TO DEFEND THE ISLANDS. THE NEW YORK TIMES CONTENDS THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR RECONCILIATION WILL DEPEND ON BRITISH POLICY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MILITARY VICTORY.

4. A FURTHER GENERAL THEME IS THE SUGGESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES, HAVING SIDED WITH BRITAIN DURING THE CONFLICT AS IT WAS RIGHT TO DO, SHOULD NOW MOVE QUICKLY TO RE-BUILD RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND - WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO - WITH ARGENTINA. THE PRESS NOTE THAT ARGENTINE RANCOUR SEEMS TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN BRITAIN. THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING DRIVING THE ARGENTINES TOWARDS A PERONIST REGIME OR GREATER DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION IS EMPHASIZED, AS IS THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHILE OPPOSING ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THEIR PRESENT STATUS BY FORCE HAS A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS.