

RESTRICTED

GRS 670

RESTRICTED
FM MEXICO CITY 231951Z JUNE 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 497 OF 23 JUNE

MIPT AND YOUR TELNO 136 TO ANKARA: FALKLAND ISLANDS:
LATIN AMERICAN PRESS COMMENT

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM THE MEXICAN PRESS MAY BE OF USE. SOME ARE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AND DO NOT REFLECT THE GENERAL BALANCE OF THE ARTICLES FROM WHICH THEY ARE TAKEN. IN THESE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS WE USE THE WORD FALKLANDS, ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH TEXTS, EVEN OF WRITERS SUPPORTING THE BRITISH POSITION, ALMOST INVARIABLY USE THE WORD MALVINAS.

(A) ARTICLE BY PEDRO GRINGOIRE IN EXCELSIOR OF 22 JUNE ... IT SEEMS THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE AT LAST WOKEN UP TO HARSH REALITY. THE INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON 2 APRIL, LAUNCHED SUDDENLY BY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PASS INTO HISTORY AS THE MOST GRIEVOUS POLITICAL AND MILITARY ERROR OF THE PAST 30 YEARS. A SUMMARY OF THE FACTS CAN ALREADY BE MADE. WHATEVER OPINION ONE MAY HOLD ABOUT THE LEGITIMATE OWNERSHIP AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS, A QUESTION WHICH IN A CIVILISED WORLD SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, THE INVASION CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED IN LAW. IT IS NOW CLEARER THAN EVER, AND ESPECIALLY CLEAR FROM THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE JUNTA FOLLOWING ITS DEFEAT, THAT THE REGIME, CONFRONTED WITH AN EXPLOSIVE INTERNAL SITUATION, HAD RECOURSE TO THE INVASION OF THE ISLANDS IN ORDER TO DISTRACT THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE AND ENFORCE ITS SUPPORT ...

THE ISLANDS HAVE NEVER BEEN OF SUCH VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR ARGENTINA, LEAST OF ALL AT THE PRESENT TIME, FOR IT TO BE A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH TO SEIZE THEM. THE THEATRICAL STROKE PLANNED BY THE MILITARY IN ORDER TO RETAIN THE POWER WHICH WAS SLIPPING FROM THEIR HANDS, WAS SKILFUL. BUT THE PLAN CONTAINED A TREMENDOUS ERROR OF CALCULATION. THEY DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE OLD LION WHOSE RIBS THEY WERE GOING TO POKE WOULD EVEN GROWL. BUT THE OLD LION NOT ONLY GROWLED BUT STOOD UP AND MOVED INTO THE ATTACK ... WHAT NOW? THE PEOPLE HAVE WOKEN UP TO REALITY. GALTIERI HAS FALLEN. FOR THE TIME BEING THERE IS ONLY A CHANGE AMONG THE MILITARY. BUT THE WIND IS BLOWING AND IT MAY SOON BE THAT THE MILITARY WILL LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT AND RETURN TO THEIR BARRACKS. THE STRATAGEM TO ATTRACT POPULAR SUPPORT WILL HAVE FAILED. AND THE HOLOCAUST OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WILL HAVE PROVED USELESS.

(B) ARTICLE BY XORGE DEL CAMPO IN EL NACIONAL OF 21 JUNE ON REQUESTING A CEASE-FIRE IN THE FALKLANDS, PRESIDENT GALTIERI REVEALED THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF HIS STRATEGY...THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE ARGENTINE GENERAL THROUGHOUT THIS CONFLICT WAS DEPLORABLE, DUE TO THE ILLEGITIMACY OF HIS GOVERNMENT, TO ITS INTERNAL WEAKNESS, TO ITS BAD INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND TO

RESTRICTED

/ ITS LACK

RESTRICTED

ITS LACK OF ABILITY AND INTELLIGENCE IN CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS...
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR OF THE FALKLANDS, IN ITS TRUE CONTEXT,
HAS BEEN ONLY A SECOND FRONT, A SECOND SCANDALOUS WAR WHICH

HAS ONLY AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION OF THE ARGENTINE CIVILIAN
POPULATION AND DESTROYED OR SEVERELY DAMAGED ITS ECONOMY... GALTIERI
HAS MADE IT CLEARER THAN EVER THAT HIS GOVERNMENT LACKS
LEGITIMACY IN THE DEMOCRATIC EYES OF MANY COUNTRIES AND THAT HIS
EAGERNESS TO PURSUE AN ARMS RACE HAS BEEN DEPLORABLE... GALTIERI
HAS BEHAVED IN THE ISLAND CONFLICT WITH THE SUBTLETY OF AN ELEPHANT
IN A BAZAAR... THIS MAN, OR THOSE WHO SUCCEED HIM, LACK THE
MORAL SOLVENCY TO PRESENT THEMSELVES BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL
TRIBUNAL TO CLAIM RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY. FROM WHERE WOULD THEY
OBTAIN THEM, IF THEIR HANDS ARE TAINTED WITH THE BLOOD OF THEIR OWN
PEOPLE?...

(C) ARTICLE BY ADOLFO GILLY IN UNO-MAS-UNO OF 21 JUNE
... IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY WITHIN ARGENTINA IN
OPPOSITION TO THE WAR... BUT THERE WAS A CLEAR AND VIABLE ATTITUDE:
TO MAINTAIN SILENCE, NOT TO COLLABORATE, TO RESIST THE PATRIOTIC
WAVE. THIS WAS DONE IN PRACTICE BY THE MAJORITY OF THE ARGENTINE
WORKING POPULATION, IN PARTICULAR THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. UNLIKE
THE POLITICIANS THEY DID NOT HAVE TO PROTECT THEIR CAREERS AND SO
THEY MADE THEIR VIEWS CLEAR THROUGH SILENCE AND GLOOM...

(D) ARTICLE BY MARICELA CASTRO FROM EL HERALDO OF 17 JUNE
... IT IS DIFFICULT TO REASON WHEN ONE IS BURNING WITH THE IDEA
OF QUOTE RECONQUERING UNQUOTE SOMETHING. IN THIS CASE A TERRITORY
WHICH MANY ARGENTINES DID NOT EVEN KNOW EXISTED. IF ONLY THEY
HAD NEVER COME TO KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE.

TICKELL

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

FALKLAND ISLAND GENERAL

FCO
S AM D
MCAD
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS

- 2 -

RESTRICTED