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FM BRASILIA 29:1315Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 299 OF 29 JUNE

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA

REPEATED INFO PRIORITY BERNE, UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK (DS11)

UKMIS GENEVA TELNO 364 TO FCO: RETENTION OF ARGENTINE POWS

1. BRAZILIAN MFA INSIST THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ARE PRESENTED IN WRITING.

2. A NOTE VERBALE WAS THEREFORE DELIVERED ON 22 JUNE FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TELNO 253, ASKING THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT:

QUOTE

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT PROPOSE TO RETAIN BETWEEN 500-600 PRISONERS OF WAR FOR THE TIME BEING PENDING CLARIFICATION OF ARGENTINA'S POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. THESE PRISONERS ARE IN CATEGORIES WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE CONSIDERABLY TO ARGENTINA'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT FURTHER OPERATIONS AGAINST HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE BEING TREATED FULLY