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FM BUENOS AIRES
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TELNO 151

OF 261430Z APRIL 88

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK PORT STANLEY CBFFI

MY TELNO 145: UK/ARGENTINA: POSSIBLE DECLARATION OF CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES

SUMMARY

1. PRESS SPECULATION CONTINUES ABOUT AN IMMINENT DECLARATION.
NO COMMENT SO FAR FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY.

DETAIL

2. AN ARTICLE BY OSCAR RAUL CARDOSO IN ''CLARIN'' OF 26 APRIL
REPORTS DIPLOMATIC SPECULATION THAT ALFONSIN MIGHT ANNOUNCE A
FORMAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES WHEN OPENING CONGRESS ON 1 MAY.
THE GOVERNMENT WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO SUCH A DECISION
LATE LAST YEAR BUT TO HAVE POSTPONED IT SINE DIE BECAUSE OF
FIRE FOCUS. OTHER OBSERVERS ARGUED THAT A DECISION WOULD NOT COME
UNTIL CHANGES HAD OCCURRED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRINCIPALLY
THE APPOINTMENT OF RAUL ALCONADA SEMPE TO A NEW POSITION AS
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. (COMMENT: THE US EMBASSY HAVE TOLD US
THAT ALCONADA SEMPE IS INDEED RETURNING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
BUT HAVE NOT SAID IN WHAT CAPACITY.)

3. CARDOSO GOES ON TO SAY THA THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BE RELIEVED
AT THE DECISION IF IT WOULD PERMIT US SUPPLIES OF MILITRAY EQUIP-
MENT. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT PASTORINI HAD MADE CLEAR THAT SUPPLY
OF A4 AIRCRAFT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION PENDING A FORMAL CESSATION
OF HOSTILITIES. ABRAMS HAD SUGGESTED THAT ONCE THIS WAS
DECLARED THE AMERICANS WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT PRESSURE ON BRITAIN
TO LIFT THE EXCLUSION ZONE. THE ARGENTINES HAD HEARD SUCH
PROMISES BEFORE. BUT ONE NEW ELEMENT WAS THAT FOREIGN POLICY
ADVISERS TO BOTH THE MAJOR 1989 PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS, ANGELOZ
AND CAFIERO, WERE AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE THE ALFONSIN ADMIN-
ISTRATION WHICH BEGAN THE MOVE TOWARDS RELAXING TENSION.

COMMENT

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE YET TO COMMENT. IN SEVERAL
NEWSPAPERS SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
ADOLFO GASS IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT A FORMAL CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES WAS CONDITIONAL ON BRITISH AGREEMENT TO DISCUSSION OF

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