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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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INFO BIS NEW YORK AND UKMIS NEW YORK

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CALL ON HAIG: FALKLANDS

1. WHEN I SAW HAIG THIS MORNING HE WAS STILL SEETHING OVER AN INCIDENT WHICH HE DESCRIBED TO ME AS FOLLOWS.
2. ED MEESE HAD BEEN DUE TO BE THE GUEST AT A GODFREY SPERLING BREAKFAST THIS MORNING (THESE ARE ON THE RECORD BREAKFAST MEETINGS OF LEADING WASHINGTON JOURNALISTS). AT THE LAST MOMENT, MEESE HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM GOING AND HAD ASKED CLARK TO FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE. CLARK HAD SENT AN NSC STAFFER CALLED BAILEY WHO DEALS WITH ECONOMIC PLANNING AND KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE FALKLANDS.
3. DURING THE BREAKFAST BAILEY HAD TOLD JOURNALISTS
  - (A) THAT US SR71S HAD BEEN OVERFLYING THE FALKLANDS AND THAT THE U S HAD PASSED TO US ALL THE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION RESULTING FROM THE FLIGHTS:
  - (B) THAT HAIG HAD ASKED THE BRITISH TO DELAY MILITARY ACTION IN THE FALKLANDS FOR THREE DAYS.
4. HAIG SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD DENY THESE STORIES AS TOTALLY UNTRUE.
5. LUCKILY, WHAT BAILEY SAID WAS COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. BUT HAIG CLEARLY FEARS THAT THE STORY ABOUT THE SR71S WILL PROVOKE SPECULATION AND WILL BE BELIEVED BY THE ARGENTINIANS.
6. IF QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS, WE SHALL DRAW ATTENTION TO THE U S DENIAL.