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INDEX	REGISTRY
Pa.	Action Taken

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CRS 250
 UNCLASSIFIED
 FM BUENOS AIRES 27/1610Z NOV
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 275 OF 27 NOVEMBER 1980
 INFO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

TOP COPY

THE FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE PRESS COVERAGE

1. THE OPTIONS PUT FORWARD AT MR RIDLEY'S PUBLIC MEETING IN STANLEY (STANLEY TEL 180 TO FCO) RECEIVE HEAVY COVERAGE IN ARGENTINE PRESS OF 27 NOVEMBER. CONCENTRATION IS ON LEASEBACK, INEVITABLY.

2. COVERAGE IS MAINLY FACTUAL. HEADLINES REFER TO THE BRITISH PLAN OR PROPOSAL TO RETURN THE MALVINAS, BUT ONE REMARKS QUOTE THE PIRATES WANT TO RENT OUR MALVINAS' UNQUOTE MR RIDLEY'S

RECEPTION AT THE MEETING (AND EARLIER) IS DESCRIBED AS COLD, AND THE ARGENTINE CORRESPONDENTS IN STANLEY CLAIM TO HAVE DETECTED CONSIDERABLE LOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF LEASEBACK. MOST REPORTS SUGGEST THAT LEASEBACK PERIOD WOULD REMAIN TO BE DEFINED BUT QUOTE CLARIN UNQUOTE MANAGES TO CONFUSE THE 25 YEAR PERIOD (OTHERWISE LINKED WITH THE FREEZE OPTION) WITH LEASEBACK. GROWCOTT IS QUOTED IN SEVERAL PAPERS AS FORECASTING THAT ISLANDER RESPONSE WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO EMERGE.

3. COMMENT SO FAR IS LIMITED. THE HERALD (QUOTE SOLUTION IN SIGHT? UNQUOTE) WELCOMES NEWS OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH IT SEES AS A BASIS FOR EVENTUAL SOLUTION. CLARIN'S CORRESPONDENT IN STANLEY NOTES THAT ARGENTINA WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXERCISE THE SOVEREIGNTY CONFERRED BY LEASEBACK. SIGNED ARTICLE IN LA PRENSA REJECTS THE IDEAS IN FORTHRIGHT TERMS: QUOTE 15 YEARS OF USELESS NEGOTIATION: LONDON'S PROPOSALS ARE UNACCEPTABLE FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW. UNQUOTE THE LEASEBACK PROPOSAL AND THE MANNER OF ITS EMERGENCE IS SEEN AS OFFENSIVE TO ARGENTINA. ARTICLE MAKES ADMIRING REFERENCE TO INDIA'S ACTION IN GOA IN 1961 AND CALLS ON ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO REMIND LONDON THAT THE CASE OF GOA NEED NOT BE UNIQUE AND UNREPEATABLE.

WILLIAMS

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ADDITIONAL DIST:
 FALKLAND ISLANDS