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PP BIS BUENOS AIRES

GRS 300

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FM FCO 191230Z APRIL 82

TO PRIORITY BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 20 APR

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ARGENTINA

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ARGENTINA. THE TEXT IS IN MIFT.

2. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:
BEGINS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR TELEGRAM ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I AM AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WHICH YOUR CHAMBER HAS MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL LINKS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UK, AND THE MAJOR ROLE WHICH THESE HAVE PLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINA. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS, LIKE YOUR CHAMBER, CONCERNED THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES ARE NOW AT RISK. HOWEVER, THIS SITUATION HAS NOT BEEN OF OUR SEEKING: IT HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THEIR DEPENDENCIES.

WE WANT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE ONE. HOWEVER THIS MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF THE MANDATORY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UN, WHICH CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES. ANY INTENSITY OF FEELING IN ARGENTINA ON THIS SUBJECT IS FULLY MATCHED BY THE OUTRAGE AT ARGENTINA'S INVASION FELT HERE. IF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ITS VIEWS BY FORCE ON THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, WHO HAVE MANY TIMES MADE QUITE CLEAR THEIR DETERMINATION TO REMAIN BRITISH, WERE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED, THERE WOULD BE THE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES

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FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW, NOT ONLY IN THE SOUTH
ATLANTIC, BUT IN THE WIDER WORLD ALSO. ENDS

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PP BIS BUENOS AIRES (VIA BERNE)

GRS 427

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FM FCO 191230Z APRIL 82

TO PRIORITY BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION BUENOS AIRES
TELEGRAM NUMBER 26 OF 20 APRIL

MIPT: BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEGRAM.

BEGINS: THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC (INC) REPRESENTS MANY AND IMPORTANT BRITISH AND ARGENTINE COMPANIES WITH INDUSTRIAL, TRADING OR FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. WITHIN ARGENTINA ITS MEMBERS EMPLOY OVER 10,000 PERSONS AND ACCOUNT FOR AN AGGREGATE INVESTMENT OF OVER POUNDS STERLING 5000: THEY ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERATING A BILATERAL FLOW OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE ORDER OF POUNDS STERLING 1,000M PER YEAR. EVER SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1913 THE CHAMBER HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE FURTHERANCE OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AS SUCH IT HAS WITNESSED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ARGENTINE AND BRITISH INTERESTS. GENERATIONS OF BRITONS HAVE CHOSEN TO WORK AND LIVE IN ARGENTINA AND IN MANY CASES HAVE SETTLED AND INTEGRATED PERMANENTLY INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WHERE THEY FOUND RESPECT AND EVEN ADMIRATION FOR BRITISH VALUES AND WAY OF LIFE AND NEVER AT ANY TIME HAVE REGRETTED THEIR DECISION. OUR CHAMBER IS THEREFORE MOST SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BECAUSE THAT LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP IS NOW AT STAKE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES OF BRITISH ORIGIN OR AFFILIATION PRESENT IN ARGENTINA PUTTING AT RISK A RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPED OVER MORE THAN A CENTURY WHICH MAY BE DESTROYED IN ONE DAY BUT WOULD REQUIRE DECADES TO REPAIR. THIS CONCERN EXTENDS ALSO TO WHAT WE BELIEVE IS A LACK OF AWARENESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH RESPECT TO THE SINCERITY AND INTENSITY OF THE FEELINGS OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE TOWARDS THE ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION EVER SINCE IT AROSE 150 YEARS AGO AND THEIR

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FRUSTRATION AFTER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF FRUITLESS TALKS. THE CHAMBER IS ANXIOUS THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THIS PROBLEM BE REACHED. THE HIGHEST SENSE OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION MUST PREVAIL. THE UNDENIABLE DUTY OF EVERYONE AND PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO WIELD POWER IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE MOST SINCERE WILLINGNESS TO CARRY THROUGH TO A SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN INITIATED, THE FAILURE OF WHICH NO REASONABLE PERSON CAN ACCEPT. WE URGE YOU TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE WHICH AT THIS POINT COULD ONLY CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO ALL CONCERNED AND INCALCULABLE DAMAGE TO THE WESTERN WORLD AND TO STRIVE TO ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH WILL ALLOW A POSITIVE FUTURE TO BE BUILT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL INCLUDING THE ISLANDERS. ENDS

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