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CONFIDENTIAL  
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TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 16 OF 4 FEBRUARY  
INFO PRIORITY BUENOS AIRES UKM, NY

Aw 040/325/1		
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- 4 FEB 1982		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

15 MY TELNO 13: FALKLANDS TALKS

1. WE DO NOT WISH TO SHOW COUNCILLORS FULL TEXT OF EITHER THE ARGENTINE PAPER OR OUR REPLY IN ADVANCE OF THE NEW YORK TALKS. NOR, HOWEVER, DO WE CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO KEEP THEM IN THE DARK, IN VIEW OF THEIR LIKELY REACTION WHEN THEY LEARN ABOUT THE EXCHANGE IN NEW YORK, AS THEY INEVITABLY WILL.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CONSIDER BEST COURSE TO BE TO INFORM COUNCILLORS NOW IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE NATURE OF THE EXCHANGE AND TO ALLOW BLAKE AND CHEEK TO SEE THE PAPERS IN FULL IN NEW YORK. THIS IS NOT IDEAL, BUT IN OUR VIEW IT MINIMISES RISK THAT COUNCILLORS WILL HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ATTENDING TALKS AND THIS MUST REMAIN OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE.

3. ONCE HMA BUENOS AIRES CONFIRMS HE HAS SPOKEN TO ROS,  
\*GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD BRIEF THE COUNCILLORS IN CONFIDENCE ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

(I) THE ARGENTINES HAVE SENT US A SUBSTANTIAL AND TOUGHLY-WORDED PAPER OUTLINING THEIR VIEW OF THE DISPUTE:

(II) IT CONTAINS LITTLE THAT IS NEW BUT IT PROPOSES THAT WE AGREE IN NEW YORK TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS TO LOOK INTO PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE DISPUTE:

(III) LIKE ALL ARGENTINE DOCUMENTS IT IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WHAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING IS THE CESSION OF SOVEREIGNTY TO THEM:

(IV) WE HAVE THEREFORE REPLIED TO SAY THAT WHILE WE WISH TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE, WE ARE IN NO DOUBTS ABOUT BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS AND THE DEPENDENCIES. WE HAVE REPEATED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL ANGLO-ARGENTINE NEGOTIATIONS ARE HELD UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY UMBRELLA AND THAT NO OTHER BASIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE:

/(v)

(V) - WE SHALL DISCUSS THE PAPER FURTHER WITH THE ISLANDERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ARGENTINES IN NEW YORK.

4. WE APPRECIATE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONVENE A COUNCIL MEETING AT THIS TIME AND AT SHORT NOTICE. WE SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN COUNCILLORS BEING BRIEFED INDIVIDUALLY IF NECESSARY BUT YOU SHOULD STRESS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE EXCHANGES. WE HOPE THAT COUNCILLORS WILL NOT ASK TO SEE THE PAPERS: IF THEY DO YOU WILL HAVE TO RESIST, BUT YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT MR LUCE WILL WISH TO GO OVER THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY WITH COUNCILLORS BLAKE AND CHEEK IN NEW YORK.

5. IN DISCUSSING WITH COUNCILLORS, YOUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO EMPHASISE THE ROBUSTNESS OF OUR REPLY BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THAT COUNCILLORS AGREE THAT CHEEK AND BLAKE MAY STILL ATTEND THE TALKS. THERE MAY BE A TENDENCY TO SEE THE ARGENTINE INITIATIVE AS AN EXCUSE TO WITHDRAW. IF THERE IS, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT HMG REMAIN COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE THROUGH NEGOTIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLANDER WISHES. WE SHOULD NOT LIGHTLY RISK A BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WOULD BRING WITH IT POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ISLANDERS THEMSELVES. WE KNOW THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE INCONVENIENCE OR WORSE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE SERVICES, BUT WE CONSIDER IT WOULD BE WRONG TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE ARGENTINES TO ACT. YOU SHOULD ASSURE COUNCILLORS THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE TALKS IS IN NO WAY PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR OWN OR OUR SOVEREIGNTY POSITION.

CARRINGTON  
STANDARD)  
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LEGAL ADVISERS  
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN:  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.