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DESKEY 011200Z BRASILIA, ALL EC POSTS.

FROM F C O 111000Z APR 82.

TO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 46 OF 1 APRIL

AND TO IMMEDIATE ALL EC POSTS,

INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, MONTEVIDEO, PORT STANLEY, (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR), WASHINGTON, URMIS NEW YORK, SANTIAGO,

MODUK NAVY, CINCFLEET, O OF F1 (EMBARKED). UKRA GELERA

FALKLAND ISLANDS/SOUTH GEORGIA.

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM MY STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON 30 MARCH (TEXT IN VERBATIM SERIES, NO 29) THAT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT A DANGEROUS SITUATION IS DEVELOPING OVER THE ILLEGAL PRESENCE ON SOUTH GEORGIA OF A PARTY OF ARGENTINES.

2. GRATEFUL IF ALL ADDRESSEES WOULD NOW URGENTLY PASS TO YOUR RESPECTIVE MFA'S A COPY OF THAT STATEMENT. YOU SHOULD STRESS ORALLY THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION, WHICH HAS IN NO WAY BEEN OF OUR SEEKING, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS. OUR OBJECT THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE UNAUTHORISED PRESENCE OF THESE MEN ON BRITISH TERRITORY BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS.

3. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE ARGENTINES' REACTION HAS BEEN OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO THE NATURE OF THE INCIDENT. THERE ARE DISTURBING REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL ARGENTINE NAVAL MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA. WE CANNOT RULE OUT THAT THE ARGENTINES MAY EVEN BE CONTEMPLATING ACTION AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THEMSELVES. ANY USE OF FORCE AT ALL WOULD BE A GRAVE AND UNWARRANTED ESCALATION OF THIS ALREADY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

4. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO DO EV EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DEFUSE THE

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TENSIONS WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED. WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEED TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THIS INCIDENT. WE ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER SIMPLY, ACQUIESCE IN THE UNAUTHORISED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS ON BRITISH TERRITORY AND THE ARGENTINES HAVE SO FAR REJECTED ALL OUR PROPOSALS ON METHODS TO REGULARISE THE MEN'S POSITION. WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT OUR BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES SHOULD CONTINUE AND HAVE MADE FURTHER PROPOSALS TO THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER TO THIS END. THE ARGENTINES HAVE YET TO REPLY.

5. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THOSE ADDRESSEES WITH MISSIONS IN BUENOS AIRES OR WHO HAVE ARGENTINE MISSIONS IN THEIR CAPITALS COULD TAKE AN IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS TO THE ARGENTINES THE NEED TO FIND A PEACEFUL AND DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THIS INCIDENT. ANY ESCALATION WOULD BE IN NO-ONE'S INTEREST, AND WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY INTERNATIONAL OPINION.

6. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.

7. FOR BRASILIA. YOUR TELNO 56 REFERS. WE REALISE THAT TRYING TO GET THE BRAZILIANS TO ACT FOR US IN THIS WAY IS A LONG SHOT BUT WE NEED TO EXPLORE EVERY AVENUE IN ORDER TO RESTRAIN THE ARGENTINES AT THIS MOMENT.

CARRINGTON

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