

ALQ 050/304/3

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	FA	Action Taken

(3) sec 4
sec 6

TOP COPY

GRS 200

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 041916Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1110 OF 4 APRIL

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, BONN AND OTTAWA

①- MY TELNO 1105 : FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES OF 4 APRIL AGAIN MAKE THE FALKLANDS THEIR LEAD STORY, THE MAIN FOCUS OF ATTENTION BEING THE DESPATCH OF THE NAVAL TASK FORCE (WASHINGTON POST: BRITAIN THREATENS TO USE FORCE): YESTERDAY'S DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE.

2. THE WASHINGTON POST CARRIES ON EDITORIAL ENTITLED QUOTE ARGENTINA'S AGGRESSION (TEXT IN MIFT). A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY DON OBERDORFER SAYS THAT U S OFFICIALS WERE YESTERDAY ANXIOUSLY SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO FORESTALL A MILITARY CLASH OVER THE FALKLANDS WHICH MIGHT FORCE THE U S TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A SUDDENLY AROUSED BRITAIN, AMERICA'S CLOSEST GLOBAL ALLY, AND NEIGHBOURS IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA. OBERDORFER SAYS THAT US OFFICIALS ESTIMATED THAT THEY HAD ABOUT 2 WEEKS TO HEAD OFF A MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENT BUT NO CLEAR PLAN AS TO HOW TO AVERT A COLLISION. OBERDORFER NOTES THAT BRITAIN WILL EXPECT US BACKING, IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NATO ALLIANCE, JUST AS THE UNITED STATES EXPECTED BRITISH BACKING OVER THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS.

HENDERSON

STANDARD
SAMD
EMERGENCY UNIT
UND
ECD (E)
ERD
MAED
ESID
SED

ADDITIONAL DIST:
FALKLAND ISLANDS