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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUEHLD/USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE 7504-5

INFO RUEADWW/ WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 7339

BT

UNCLAS STATE 094151 T0SEC 050014

IMMEDIATE

08 APR 82

TOR 1740

CN: 37788

CHRG: STA

ACTION S/S 15/FEM

PASS DEAN FISCHER

E.O. 12065:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 8 ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA

Falls

1. FALKLAND ISLANDS - ARGENTINA HAS PUT NEARLY A QUARTER MILLION RESERVE TROOPS ON ALERT AND FORMED A NAVAL COMMAND WITH ORDERS TO DEFEND THE AREA SURROUNDING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. THIS CAME AFTER THE BRITISH ANNOUNCED A NAVAL BLOCKADE OF THE FALKLANDS BEGINNING SUNDAY NIGHT AND THEIR INTENTION TO SINK ANY ARGENTINE SHIP THAT COMES WITHIN 200 MILES OF THE ISLANDS OR THE ARGENTINE COAST. THE BRITISH NAVAL TASK FORCE IS STILL ABOUT A WEEK AWAY THOUGH BRITISH NUCLEAR SUBMARINES ARE REPORTED TO ALREADY BE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. (STEVE BELL)

ARGENTINA HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL SOUTHERN MILITARY COMMAND TO DEFEND THE ISLANDS. ALSO, ARGENTINA HAS SET A 200 MILE RADIUS AROUND THE MALVINAS ISLANDS THAT CONSTITUTES A WAR ZONE AND ANY BRITISH SHIP ENTERING THAT AREA WILL BE SUBJECT TO ITS CONTROL. (JAMES WALKER, BUENOS AIRES)

WITHIN THE LAST 48 HOURS U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA IS BECOMING A BIT NERVOUS SINCE THE BRITISH HAVE REACTED MORE FORCEFULLY THAN EXPECTED AND FEW LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE RALLIED TO THEIR SUPPORT. MAY OF

ARGENTINA'S NEIGHBORS VIEW THE TAKE OVER OF THE FALKLANDS AS AN ACT OF NAKED AGGRESSION. U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE ELEMENTS OF A COMPROMISE MAY BE IN SIGHT IF SECRETARY HAIG IS ABLE TO FIND A FACE-SAVING WAY FOR TWO COUNTRIES TO BACK AWAY FROM A MILITARY CLASH. THAT COMPROMISE WOULD BE BASED ON AN AGREEMENT ALMOST REACHED LAST YEAR. BRITAIN WOULD ACCEPT ARGENTINA'S EVENTUAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE FALKLANDS AND ARGENTINA WOULD ACCEPT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION OVER THE ISLANDS FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. THAT AGREEMENT COLLAPSED WHEN THE BRITISH RESIDENTS OF THE FALKLANDS REJECTED IT. IT MAY BE MORE ACCEPTABLE NOW. THE IMMEDIATE OBSTACLE IS THE PRESENCE OF ARGENTINE TROOPS ON THE ISLANDS. BRITAIN DEMANDS THEY BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE ANY NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN. (RICK INDERFURTH)

A BRITISH VICTORY IN THE FALKLANDS IS FAR FROM A SURE THING. U.S. NAVAL EXPERTS SAY THE BRITISH TASK FORCE MUST TAKE CONTROL OF AIR AND SEA. TO DO THIS THE BRITISH MUST STATION

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SUBMARINES TO INTERDICT SEA LANES BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLANDS. AIR POWER SHOULD BE USED TO KNOCK OUT TRANSPORT PLANES FLYING IN WITH REINFORCEMENTS. IF BRITISH MARINES LAND ON THE ISLANDS, CASUALTIES COULD RUN AS HIGH AS 25 IN VERY HEAVY FIGHTING. (JOE PENTON)

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS, BRITAIN HAS PINNED ITS HOPES FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION ON U.S. MEDIATION. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE IS FIRM ON WHAT IT WILL OR WILL NOT ACCEPT. ARGENTINE TROOPS MUST EVACUATE THE ISLANDS. THE TERRITORY MUST REVERT TO BRITISH CONTROL. ARGENTINA WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE ISLANDS. BRITAIN WOULD RECOGNIZE ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY AND LEASE THE TERRITORY FOR A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF YEARS. THE ISLANDERS MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON SUCH AN AGREEMENT. (AL DALE, LONDON)

INTERVIEW WITH THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ESTEPAN TAKACS. ACCORDING TO TAKACS, ARGENTINA IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND WHAT IS CONSIDERED THEIR PROPERTY STOLEN FROM THEM IN 1833 BY THE BRITISH. ARGENTINA WAS SURPRISED BY THE BRITISH REACTION WHICH HE CALLED "TOTALLY OUT OF-PROPORTION." HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE HOPE OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AS THERE IS THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY BUT ALL ELSE CAN BE NEGOTIATED. IF FORCED TO DO SO, ARGENTINA WOULD ASK THE U.S. TO COME TO ITS AID AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN SINCE THE U.S. WAS AMONG THE SIGNERS OF THE 1947 RIO TREATY THAT STATED IF ANY OF THE CO-SIGNERS WERE ATTACKED, THE OTHERS WOULD COME TO THEIR DEFENSE. THE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED THAT THE MOVEMENT OF ARGENTINE FORCES

ONTO THE FALKLANDS WAS NOT AN ACT OF "NAKED AGGRESSION" AS SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS HAVE SAID, BUT RATHER A MATTER OF RE-OCCUPATION. ACCORDING TO TAKACS, THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLANDS AS WELL AS THE UN WHICH CONSIDERED THE ISLANDS COLONIAL TERRITORIES. THE TAKE OVER OF THE FALKLANDS IS NOT IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OPINION A MOVE TO PULL THE COUNTRY TOGETHER ON THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN ARGENTINA. (DAVID HARTMAN/STEVE BELL)

INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE JOHN NOTT. THE BRITISH TASK FORCE ACCORDING TO NOTT WILL SINK ANY ARGENTINE VESSELS THAT COME WITHIN THE 200 MILE LIMIT AND BRITAIN WILL "MOST CERTAINLY SHOOT FIRST WITHIN THAT 200 MILE LIMIT." SUFFICIENT WARNING HAS BEEN GIVEN. AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR DAYS, NOTT SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE ARGENTINE TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM THE ISLANDS. REGARDING SECRETARY HAIG'S COMING TO LONDON TODAY, NOTT SAID THAT HE IS WELCOME AS A FRIEND AND ALLY BUT HE IS NOT VIEWED BY THE BRITISH AS

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A MEDIATOR IN THIS SITUATION. THE BRITISH HAVE NO PROPOSALS TO MAKE TO HIM BUT WILL LISTEN TO HIS IDEAS.

AS TO THE REFUSAL BY ARGENTINA TO REMOVE ITS TROOPS AS A PRE-CONDITION TO NEGOTIATION, NOTT SAID THAT ARGENTINA IS AN "UNPROVOKED AGGRESSOR" AND NO NEGOTIATIONS WILL START WITHOUT WITHDRAWAL. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION IN THIS DISPUTE, NOTT QUESTIONED HOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO ASSUME AN "EVEN-HANDED POSITION BETWEEN AN AGGRESSOR AND ONE DEFENDING ONE'S OWN TERRITORY. THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION IN THIS CRISIS ACCORDING TO NOTT IS NOT WHAT THE BRITISH OR ARGENTINES WANT BUT RATHER WHAT THE ISLANDERS THEMSELVES WANT. HE STATED THAT THEY ARE BRITISH AND WISH TO REMAIN SO. ARGENTINA HAS COMMITTED AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK AGAINST THESE PEOPLE AND MUST WITHDRAW BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE. HE ADDED THAT THE BRITISH ARE "NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF RESPONDING TO MEDIATION." (DAVID HARTMAN/STEVE BELL)

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS A SECRET WHITE HOUSE PAPER THAT ADVISES THAT ARGENTINA BE HANDLED DELICATELY IN THIS CRISIS. ARGENTINA IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL TO ASSUME A HEMISPHERIC LEADERSHIP ROLE, ITS SIZE, LOCATION, RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED AND ADVANCED POPULATION AND ECONOMY. A FRIENDLY ARGENTINA CAN BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR U.S. HEMISPHERIC AND GLOBAL OBJECTIVES. A HOSTILE ARGENTINA WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE A COHERENT

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS THIS REGION. (JACK ANDERSON)

2. IRAN - IRANIAN AND SOVIET FORCES HAVE BEEN FIGHTING SPORADICALLY DURING THE LAST WEEK IN A DISPUTED BORDER AREA. (STEVE BELL)

U.S. SOURCES SAY THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CREATE A DE-MILITARIZED ZONE ON THE BORDER BETWEEN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN MOVING VILLAGES AND STEPPING UP PATROLS. NO ONE IS CERTAIN EXACTLY WHERE IRAN ENDS AND THE SOVIET UNION BEGINS. AS A RESULT IRANIAN FORCES HAVE ATTACKED THE SOVIET PATROLS. (JOHN MCWETHY)
EAGLEBURGER

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