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GPS 300

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 260900Z

FM BUENOS AIRES 25/2005Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 104 OF 25 MARCH 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY DESKBY 261300Z

SOUTH GEORGIA : ARGENTINE PRESS TREATMENT

1. THE ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA CONTINUES TO HOLD THE FRONT PAGE OF MOST LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, WHICH TODAY HIGHLIGHT PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT HMS ENDURANCE IS HEADING FOR SOUTH GEORGIA. THE TONE OF REPORTING HOWEVER IS GENERALLY SOMEWHAT CALMER, AND THERE IS GOOD COVERAGE OF OUR OWN PRESS STATEMENT CONCERNING THE INCIDENT AT THE LADE OFFICE IN PORT STANLEY (MY TELNO 97 REFERS).

2. YESTERDAY'S PRESS INCLUDED A STRONGLY-WORDED ARTICLE BY COLUMNIST IGLESIAS ROUCO IN LA PRENSA, INCIDENTALLY NAMING DAVIDOFF BY NAME (WHICH REPORTS HITHERTO HAD NOT DONE), AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP DITHERING AND TAKE FIRM, THOUGH UNSPECIFIED, ACTION. THE SAME NEWSPAPER CARRIED THE TEXT OF A LENGTHY MFA STATEMENT ON THE BACKGROUND TO THE DAVIDOFF CONTRACT (TEXT FOLLOWS BY BAG). THIS INCLUDES THE ASSERTION THAT DAVIDOFF'S PLANS WERE KNOWN ABOUT IN ADVANCE BY THE RELEVANT ARGENTINE AND BRITISH AUTHORITIES. IT ALSO ASSERTS THAT DAVIDOFF (WHO IS NOT ACTUALLY NAMED) WENT TO SOUTH GEORGIA IN DECEMBER ON BOARD THE ALMIRANTE IRIZAR TO INSPECT THE MATERIAL.

WILLIAMS

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CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN

FALKLAND ISLANDS