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FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 041830Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUK SITCEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L  
SIC A3A/A2M/19F

CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 050930Z  
FM MEXICO CITY 041830Z APRIL 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 243 OF 04 APRIL  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MEXICAN POSITION

1. THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO STATEMENT OR COMMENT FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE DISPUTE. MEXICO'S POSITION HAS BEEN EQUIVOCAL IN THE PAST, AND HAS REFLECTED SOME CONFLICT OF PRIORITIES IN FOREIGN POLICY. ON THE ONE HAND THE MEXICANS FEEL SOLIDARITY

PAGE 2 RBDWC A1698 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ACCEPT THE JURIDICAL HERITAGE OF SPAIN AND ARE IN PRINCIPLE AGAINST COLONIES: ON THE OTHER THEY SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, AND THEY DISLIKE THE PRESENT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, BOTH FOR ITS COMPOSITION AND CHARACTER AND FOR ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES.  
2. THE INVASION CREATES A NEW SITUATION. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, ALREADY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT EVENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MUST BE DISMAYED BY THE ARGENTINE ACTION WITH THE DANGER IT HAS CREATED OF YET ANOTHER SOURCE OF INSTABILITY ON THE CONTINENT. THEY MAY WELL THINK THAT A FAILURE ON OUR PART TO REACT FIRMLY AND QUICKLY TO THE INVASION COULD CAST DOUBT ON OUR DEFENCE CAPABILITIES IN OTHER AREAS, IN PARTICULAR BELIZE, TO WHOSE INDEPENDENCE F MEXICO HAS GIVEN UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT. HERE IT MAY BE WORTH MENTIONING THAT THE GUATEMALAN PRESS HAS NOT GIVEN MERELY FRONT PAGE BUT WHOLE PAGE PROMINENCE TO THE INVASION: THERE ARE OBVIOUS PARALLELS BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE CLAIM TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THE GUATEMALAN CLAIM TO BELIZE.  
3. THOSE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH HAVE SO FAR COMMENTED HAVE SUPPORTED THE ARGENTINE CLAIM BUT DEPLORED ARGENTINE



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MEMBER HUGO MARGAIN (UNTIL RECENTLY MEXICAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND NOW A CANDIDATE FOR THE SENATE) HAS APPARENTLY SAID THAT MEXICO SUPPORTS THE ARGENTINE CLAIM.

TICKELL  
BT

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