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MO 5/21

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

We are working on the assumption that there will be a debate in the middle of next week. For this the Secretary of State will require defensive briefing on the Argentine military capability. He has seen documents produced in haste, including a summary of the "form at a glance", DCDS(I)'s speaking notes on the Argentines capability to defend the Falkland Islands, and a note produced by the Air Staff on the Argentine air capability. It would be very useful if a note could be produced to consolidate this material. I suggest that it should comprise a succinct summary of the Argentinian capability with an Annex or Annexes giving Argentinian orbat for their Navy, Army and Air Force, in terms of numbers, formations and major weapons systems. We will also need unclassified lines to take in response to possible questions on Argentina's military strength. I should be grateful if this material could reach me by midday on the 6th April.

mtf

4th April 1982

(N H R EVANS)
APS/S of S

