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FIRST CHINESE REACTIONS TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE

1. THE CHINESE MEDIA HAVE FOLLOWED THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS IN SOME DETAIL OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT HAVE AVOIDED ALL COMMENT. IN REPORTING THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE NCNA SAID THAT THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE HAD EXPLAINED THAT CHINA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT TENSION IN THE AREA. TAKING NOTE OF THE POSITION OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS, CHINA COULD NOT SUPPORT THE BRITISH DRAFT RESOLUTION. HE HOPED FOR A PEACEFUL AND REASONABLE SETTLEMENT COULD BE FOUND THROUGH NEGOTIATION.
2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHINESE WILL AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND CLARIFICATION OF THE THIRD WORLD'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE BEFORE MAKING CHINESE VIEWS CLEARER.
3. THE CHINESE PRESS HAS ALTERNATED BETWEEN UNSING THE NAME MALVINAS AND FALKLAND ISLANDS, WITH A NUMERICAL PREFERENCE FOR THE FORMER.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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