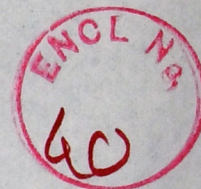


S E C R E T



C G284 06/1822 096C4769

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 061215Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
MODUK SITCEN
CINCFLEET

S E C R E T

SIC A3A/A2M/19F/U2A (SIC A3A/A2M/19F INSERTED BY DCC)

SECRET

FM MONTEVIDEO 061215Z APRIL 82
TO IMMEDIATE MODUK
TELEGRAM NUMBER 061215Z OF 06 APRIL
AND TO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES (PERSONAL FOR HMA)

FROM BRITDEFAT MONTEVIDEO
SIC U2A
FOR DI4
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. THE MEDIA ALL CARRY REPORTS OF STATEMENTS FROM LONDON OF

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HMG'S INTENTION IF NECESSARY TO RETAKE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BY
FORCE OF ARMS.

2. HAVING NOW ARRIVED HERE FROM BUENOS AIRES MY FIRST AND VITAL
TASK IS TO GIVE YOU THIS ASSESSMENT BASED UPON BEST INFORMATION
AVAILABLE BY 051030 LOCAT IN BA. SOURCES ARE MY EX COLLEAGUE
USDA BUENOS AIRES WHOM ARGENTINE ARMY OPS ROOM ARE TAKING CARE
TO BRIEF, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH UK REPORTERS WHO RETURNED FROM
PORT STANLEY 4 APRIL, AND OF COURSE LOCAL MEDIA.

3. FROM ALL OF THESE AND OMITTING THE DETAIL FOR THE PRESENT,
IT IS CLEAR THAT PORT STANLEY AND THE AIRPORT AREA IS BEING
TURNED INTO A FORTRESS. SOME MARINES WHO WERE USED IN INITIAL
OPERATIONS ARE BEING REPLACED BY FRESH, AND ARMY UNITS ARE
BEING FLOWN IN IN STRENGTH WHO ARE IMMEDIATELY ENGAGING IN
THE PREPARATION OF DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. THE NEW PANHARD SIX
WHEEL ARMED CARS WITH NINETY MM, TRACKED AMPHIBIANS AND AAA
ARE MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND MAY BE BEING AUGMENTED BY SEA. I DO
NOT (NOT) HAVE THE ORBAT YET BUT THE BUILD UP IS CONTINUING.

4. WE MUST ALSO REALISE THAT ANY PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS WE HAVE
MADE ON THE FITNESS FOR WAR OF ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE
LARGELY INAPPLICABLE TO THIS SITUATION. TO DATE WE HAVE BEEN

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ASSESSING THEIR LIKELY PERFORMANCE IN AN OFFENSIVE ROLE AGAINST
THE CHILEANS IN THE WILD AND LITTLE KNOWN TERRITORY OF THE

S E C R E T

WEST FRONTIER REGION. TODAY THEY ARE PREPARING TO DEFEND WHAT THEY REGARD WITH DEEP CONVICTION AS THEIR OWN SOIL - AND THIS IN THE GLARE OF WORLD AND NATIONAL PUBLICITY AS WELL AS WITH THE SUPPORT OF A GREAT MAJORITY OF THEIR NEIGHBOURS.

5. THIS FORCE AFTER THE WEEKS IT WILL HAVE HAD TO PREPARE, WILL FIGHT IN AS DETERMINED A WAY AS ANY IN THE WORLD. NO EFFECTIVE PREPARATORY BOMBARDMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT DESTRUCTION OF THE TOWN AND THE POPULATION OF STANLEY ITSELF AND A DIRECT ASSAULT FROM SEA OR AIR WITHOUT IT WOULD BE QUITE UNTHINKABLE.

6. IT IS TRUE THAT THE ISLANDS COULD BE ISOLATED BY DESTRUCTION OF THE NAVY AND BY BOMBING OF THE AIRFIELD, BUT EXISTING SUPPLIES WOULD CERTAINLY OUTLAST OUR OWN.

7. ADVICE COULD BE TAKEN FROM MAJOR NOOTT RM EX OC NP 89ø1 ON POSSIBLE GUERRILLA TYPE OPTIONS BUT REPORTS TO DATE DO NOT (NOT) INDICATE ANY GREAT ISLANDER APPETITE FOR THIS.

8. IN SUM THERE MAY WELL BE OTHER MILITARY COURSES OPEN TO THE UK TASK FORCE UPON WHICH I AM OF COURSE UNBRIEFED BUT PLEASE

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ENSURE THAT THE MOST SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE DECISION TAKERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.F

HUTCHINSON
BT

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