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FM WASHINGTON 070200Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1151 OF 6 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK (DISDO AND DMSI) CABINET OFFICE (FOR DIO
AND ASSESSMENT STAFF)

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. ABC TELEVISION NEWS, QUOTING PENTAGON SOURCES REPORTED THIS EVENING (6 APRIL) THAT, AT BRITISH REQUEST, SR71 AIRCRAFT HAD MADE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING FLIGHTS OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC TEN DAYS BEFORE THE ARGENTINE INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE RESULTS OF THESE FLIGHTS HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES. THE REPORT ADDED THAT SR71 FLIGHTS WERE CONTINUING AND THAT THEIR RESULTS WERE ALSO BEING GIVEN TO THE BRITISH.

2. HAIG HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME ABOUT THIS STORY TELLING ME HOW MISCHIEVOUS IT CAN BE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT CRITICISM IN THE UK. IT IS ALSO COMPLETELY UNTRUE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAS TELEPHONED CARLUCCI AT THE PENTAGON, TELLING HIM TO ISSUE AN IMMEDIATE DENIAL, WHICH HE WILL DO.

HENDERSON

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