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FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 080030Z APR 82

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SIC A3A/A2N/19F

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FM WASHINGTON 080030Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1180 OF 7 APRIL

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK.

MY TELNO 1157: FALKLANDS: U S PRESS

1. MASSIVE PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUES. THERE ARE NO EDITORIALS IN THE EAST COAST PRESS BUT THE WASHINGTON POST HAS A HERBLOCK CARTOON: A U S OFFICIAL IS TALKING ON THE TELEPHONE. ON THE WALL BEHIND HIS DESK IS AN AMERICAN EAGLE HOLDING IN ITS BEAK A BANNER QUOTING THE PRESIDENT AS SAYING THAT THE U S IS FRIENDS WITH BOTH SIDES. IN ITS CLAWS THE EAGLE HOLDS TWO POSTERS. ONE SAYS: GREAT BRITAIN: DEMOCRACY: STAUNCH ALLY OF THE U S: VICTIM OF AGGRESSION. THE OTHER IS HEADED: ARGENTINE JUNTA: MILITARY DICTATORSHIP VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS: INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSOR. THE OFFICIAL WHO IS SPEAKING TO THE PRESIDENT, IS SAYING QUOTE RIGHT CHIEF - WE STICK TO A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN SOUND JUDGMENT AND COMPLETE IDIOCY UNQUOTE.

2. THE MAIN NEWS STORIES REPORT HAIG'S INVOLVEMENT IN TRYING TO HELP RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST, THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED THAT IT COULD BE FORCED TO CHOOSE SIDES AND BE THRUST INTO A SITUATION WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR U S FOREIGN POLICY. FOR THAT REASON, SAYS THE POST, REAGAN HAS INSTRUCTED HAIG TO LOOK FOR WAYS OF SATISFYING ARGENTINA'S CLAIMS OVER THE FALKLANDS WHILE ALLAYING BRITAIN'S CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE AND FUTURE STATUS OF THE BRITISH INHABITANTS OF THE FALKLANDS. MY REMARK TO THE PRESS THAT THE U S HAD 52 HOSTAGES IN IRAN AND THAT WE NOW HAVE 2,000 IN THE FALKLANDS IS WIDELY QUOTED. THE PRESS ALSO REPORT OUR VIEW THAT THE U S CANNOT AFFORD IN ITS OWN INTEREST TO ALLOW ARGENTINA TO SUCCEED IN ITS AGGRESSION. THEY ALSO NOTE ARGENTINA'S IMPORTANCE TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY.

3. IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, DREW MIDDLETON HAS A MILITARY ANALYSIS OF COMPARATIVE STRENGTHS WHICH CONCLUDES THAT MOST EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THE ROYAL NAVY'S PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERIENCE AND THE TECHNICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE MAJORITY OF ITS SURFACE SHIPS WILL GIVE THE BRITISH THE ADVANTAGE IF THE SHOOTING STARTS.

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THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES CONTAIN MAJOR PIECES FROM DOWNIE AND APPEL RESPECTIVELY REPORTING THE ACTION WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ASKING ITS PARTNERS TO TAKE AGAINST ARGENTINA AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL MOOD IN BRITAIN. DOWNIE HAS AN INTERVIEW WITH DR OWEN IN WHICH DR OWEN SAYS THAT THE U S HAS TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINES TO CONVINCED THEM THAT THEY CANNOT REMAIN IN THE FALKLANDS BEFORE IT CAN THINK ABOUT PUTTING PRESSURE ON BRITAIN. BRITAIN HAS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS READY TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY.

5. APPLE'S PIECE, HEADED QUOTE BRITISH ARE UNDECIDED ON HOW TO USE THE FLEET UNQUOTE IS SUMMARISED IN MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

HENDERSON
BT

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