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FM MOSCOW 061500Z APR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE F C C  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 185 OF 8TH APRIL  
FOR INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON AND UKDEL NATO

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MY TELNO 179: FALKLAND ISLANDS: SOVIET ATTITUDE.

1. OVER THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THE SOVIET MEDIA HAVE BEEN GIVING CONFLICTING SIGNALS.
2. IZVESTIA OF 7 APRIL WROTE OF MOUNTING BRITISH MILITARISM: "LONDON DOES NOT CONCEAL THAT THEY WILL HARDLY BE ABLE TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA BY DIPLOMACY. THEREFORE THE STAKE HAS BEEN PUT ON A MILITARY AND NAVAL STRIKE FORCE". IZVESTIA ACCUSED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF INFLAMING A CHAUVINISTIC MOOD IN THE COUNTRY. THE REPORT ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE DISPUTE HAD PUT THE US ADMINISTRATION IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. WITH WASHINGTON'S SUPPORT, BRITAIN HAD STUBBORNLY OPPOSED THE DECOLONISATION OF THE FALKLANDS AND CONSTANTLY DRAGGED OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA, CONTRARY TO GOOD SENSE AND THE DECISIONS OF THE U.N. NOW, IZVESTIA COMMENTED, REFERRING TO A WASHINGTON POST REPORT, IF BRITAIN STARTED MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD LINE UP NOT ONLY AGAINST BRITAIN BUT AGAINST ITS ALLIES INCLUDING THE USA.
3. IN CONTRAST, PRAVDA OF 8 APRIL CONFINED ITSELF PRINCIPALLY TO FACTUAL REPORTING AND CONCENTRATED ON BRITISH INTEREST IN FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. BUT IT COMMENTED THAT THE FUTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT DEPENDED TO NO LITTLE EXTENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CRISIS. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS THEREFORE TAKING ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER MEASURES, PLACING GREAT HOPES ON DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND ABOVE ALL ON THE MEDIATION OF A NUMBER OF STATES. PRAVDA REPORTED SPECULATION THAT HMG WAS READY TO AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLANDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY A REFERENDUM IN WHICH THE POPULATION WOULD CHOOSE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA.
4. COMMENT IN TASS, NOT CARRIED IN THE PRESS, HAS TODAY WIDENED THE SCOPE OF CRITICISM. IT ACUSES HMG OF HYPOCRISY FOR OPPOSING THE SUPPOSED SUPPRESSION OF LIBERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLAND WHILE ITSELF TAKING EXTRAORDINARY POWERS FOR THE CABINET, WITHOUT APPROACHING PARLIAMENT, IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH A CRISIS THAT IN NO WAY THREATENED THE SECURITY OF BRITAIN ITSELF. TASS ALSO SPOKE OF GROWING CRITICISM OF HMG AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BROOKE TURNER

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