

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCL No.
58

CWG006 10/0130 100B0200

FOR CWG

PRIORITY 081715Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
CINCFLEET

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SIC A3A/A2N/19F
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FROM SANTIAGO 081715Z APR 82
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 90 OF 9 APRIL

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 049 TO ABIDJAN : FALKLANDS : CHILEAN PRESS COMMENT

1. AFTER A TENDENTIOUS PRESS COMMUNIQUE PUT OUT BY THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY ON 5 APRIL, WE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 6 APRIL, AND DISSEMINATED A LONG STATEMENT DRAWN FROM RECENT MINISTERIAL SPEECHES (COPY BY BAG). THIS HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND WAS PRINTED IN FULL BY EL MERCURIO ON 7 APRIL: EXTENSIVE EXTRACTS WERE CARRIED BY THE REST OF THE MEDIA.
2. EL MERCURIO'S PRINCIPAL EDITORIAL OF 9 APRIL IS DEVOTED TO OUR PRESS STATEMENT AND APPROVINGLY EMPHASISES HMG'S PREFERENCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BACKED BY A RESOLVE TO USE FORCE SHOULD ALL ELSE FAIL. QUOTE THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GOOD WILL SHOWN TOWARDS THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE US SECRETARY OF STATE ARE ALL PROOF OF THIS POLICY WHICH SEEKS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE. HOWEVER IT IS ALSO TO BE NOTED THAT QUOTE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS THE CAPACITY AND THE RESOLUTION TO USE ALL MEANS - IF CIRCUMSTANCES SO DICTATE - TO APPLY THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENCE ENSHRINED IN ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER UNQUOTE. DECLARATIONS OF MRS THATCHER AND HER MINISTERS HAVE UNDERLINED THIS DECISION, WHICH MEETS WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OPINION UNQUOTE. IN EL MERCURIO'S VIEW QUOTE THIS IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE ARGENTINA UNDERSTANDS UNQUOTE. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY REGRETTING SOME RECENT BRITISH PRESS COMMENT WHICH HAS ALLEGEDLY LUMPED CHILEAN AND ARGENTINE MILITARY GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER AS CAPABLE OF ANY EXCESS (PERHAPS A REFERENCE TO THE TIMES EDITORIAL OF 5 APRIL). QUOTE SOME AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECT THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW UNQUOTE.
3. THE REFERENCE IN GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NO 51 OF 8 APRIL TO CHILE HAVING QUOTE PUBLICLY TAKEN AN ARGENTINE LINE UNQUOTE IS OF COURSE ONLY TRUE OF THE MEDIA. THE MFA IS MAINTAINING A STRICTLY NEUTRAL STANCE.

HEATH

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END

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