

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PRIORITY CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 54 OF 8 APRIL 1982

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FALKLAND ISLANDS: LEGAL POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY

1. A NUMBER OF POSTS HAVE ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE BRITISH TITLE TO THE FALKLANDS.
2. YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT GET INVOLVED IN ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE MERITS OF OUR LEGAL POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY. YOU SHOULD CONFINE YOURSELF SIMPLY TO THE FACT THAT SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE HAD NO DOUBT ABOUT BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS AND THE DEPENDENCIES AND THAT THE BRITISH TITLE TO THE FALKLANDS IS A PRESCRIPTIVE TITLE, BASED ON 149 YEARS OF OPEN, CONTINUOUS, EFFECTIVE AND PEACEFUL POSSESSION, OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLANDS BY THE U.K.. SUCCESSIVE BRITISH ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE STRONGLY MAINTAINED THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS ARE PARAMOUNT.
3. COPIES FOLLOW BY BAG OF A CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION FACT SHEET ON WHICH YOU MAY DRAW FREELY.

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BY TELEGRAPH:

ANKARA	MEXICO CITY	ADDIS ABABA	LAGOS
ISTANBUL	BRASILIA	DAKAR	DAR-ES-SALAAM
ATHENS	SAO PAULO	KINSHASA	NAIROBI
BONN	RIO DE JANEIRO(10)	MOGADISHU	SALISBURY
BERLIN (BMG)	BOGOTA	MONROVIA	LUSAKA
BRUSSELS	HAVANA	YAOUNDE	KAMPALA
BRUSSELS(UKREP,EEC)	LIMA	LIBREVILLE	LILONGWE
BRUSSELS(UKDEL,NATO)	MONTEVIDEO	CAPE TOWN	GABORONE
COPENHAGEN	SANTIAGO	PRETORIA	MASERU
THE HAGUE	ASUNCION	JOHANNESBURG(CG)	PORT LOUIS
LISBON	LA PAZ	MAPUTO	MBABANE
LUXEMBOURG	PANAMA	LUANDA	VALLETTA
OSLO	QUITO	ANTANANARIVO	NICOSIA
PARIS	SAN JOSE	BANGKOK	KINGSTON
PARIS(UKDEL,OECD)	SANTO DOMINGO	JAKARTA	PORT OF SPAIN
STRASBOURG (UKDEL)	TEGUCIGALPA	ISLAMABAD	GEORGETOWN
REYKJAVIK	ADEN	KABUL	BRIDGETOWN
ROME	AMMAN	KATHMANDU	CASTRIES
BERNE	BAGHDAD	MANILA	ST VINCENT
GENEVA (UKMIS)	BAHRAIN	PEKING	ANTIGUA
DUBLIN	DOHA	RANGOON	NASSAU
HELSINKI	DUBAI	VIENTIANE	BELMOPAN
HOLY SEE	ABU DHABI	HANOI	SUVA
MADRID	MUSCAT	SEOUL	NUKU'ALOFA
STOCKHOLM	BEIRUT	TOKYO	PORT MORESBY
VIENNA	JEDDA	ULAN BATOR	VICTORIA
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BELGRADE	TEHRAN	CANBERRA	HONIARA
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MOSCOW	SANA'A	DACCA	B.T.C.HONG KONG
PRAGUE	DAMASCUS	COLOMBO	GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)
SOFIA	ALGIERS	KUALA LUMPUR	HAMILTON (PERSONAL)
WARSAW	CAIRO	SINGAPORE	ANGUILLA (PERSONAL)
EAST BERLIN	KHARTOUM	BANDAR SERI	TORTOLA (PERSONAL)
NEW YORK (UKMIS)	RABAT	BEGAWAN	GRAND CAYMAN (PERS)
NEW YORK (BIS)	TRIPOLI	ACCRA	MONTserrat(PERSONAL)
WASHINGTON	TUNIS	BANJUL	GRAND TURK (PERSONAL)
CARACAS	ABIDJAN	FREETOWN	ASCENSION ISLAND
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