

NNNNVV ESA125BRA557  
 OO RUESBA  
 DE RUEHLD #7893 1001209  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 O 101208Z APR 82  
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8895  
 RUEHIA/USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0872  
 RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 1412  
 RUFHLL/NATO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
 BT  
 UNCLAS LONDON 07893

UNCLASSIFIED

APR 10 9 15 AM '82

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		/	ADM		
DCM		/	SY		
POL	2		NCOIC		
ECOM		/	PER		
POL/R		/	GSO		
CONS			R&F		
ICA		/	CPO		
LABOR			TCU		
SCI		/	DEA		
DAO		/	FAS		/
MILGP			CHRON		/
FCS			RF		/

STATE AR, EUR, PA; USICA AR, EU, PGM/PPE

E.O. 12065: N/A  
 TAGS: OVIP (HAIG, ALEXANDER M., JR)  
 SUBJECT: FALKLANDS DISPUTE: UK MEDIA REACTION

S/S 15

1. WITH 48 HOURS TO GO BEFORE THE BRITISH 200 MILE MARI-TIME EXCLUSION ZONE AROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOES INTO EFFECT, THE BRITISH PRESS SATURDAY CONTINUED TO BE DOMINATED BY THE CRISIS, THOUGH FEATURE ITEMS AND COMMENTARIES TENDED TO BE LESS BELLICOSE THAN OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. MOST NEWSPAPERS -- ESPECIALLY THE MASS CIRCULATION TABLOIDS -- GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE GET-US-OUT-OF-HERE-BEFORE-THE-SHOOTING-BEGINS PLEAS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS.

4/10/82

→ Mrs. Thatcher  
 returned  
 to read down  
 rhetoric  
 since 10/4  
 saw key.

2. BRITISH DETERMINATION IS REFLECTED IN THE MAJORITY OF STORIES (HAIG FLIES ON AWARE OF BRITISH RESOLVE" - TIMES; "HAIG GETS THE MESSAGE" - DAILY EXPRESS; "HAIG ...FLEW FROM LONDON...APPARENTLY CONVINCED THAT BRITAIN IS PREPARED TO GO TO WAR IN 48 HOURS TO RETRIEVE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS UNLESS ARGENTINE WITHDRAWS ITS FORCES" - DAILY TELEGRAPH LEAD). WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE GUARDIAN WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE POINTLESS IN THE LONG TERM, EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY CONTINUES TO BACK MILITARY ACTION TO OUST THE ARGENTINES UNLESS AMERICAN INTERCESSION DOES THAT JOB INSTEAD. (TIMES: "BRITAIN HAS THE POLITICAL WILL AND THE MEANS TO ENFORCE IT").

3. SOME PAPERS EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE U.S. REALLY CAN SUCCEED IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARGENTINES OR INDEED INTENDS TO USE ITS CLOUT TO DO SO. MALCOLM RUTHERFORD IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES DEALS WITH "SUSPICION IN THE TORY PARTY THAT THE AMERICANS WILL END UP DOING DOWN THE BRITISH -- JUST AS HAPPENED IN SUEZ IN 1956," BY POINTING OUT THAT "THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL WHERE ITS INTERESTS LIE IF IT COMES TO A CHOICE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA. THEY LIE WITH THE BRITISH AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE RATHER THAN WITH AN UNSTABLE, UNELECTED REGIME THAT HAS JUST COMMITTED AN ACT OF AGGRESSION."

4. DAILY MAIL SAYS, "PRESIDENT REAGAN SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT, BY BRINGING THE ARGENTINES TO HEEL NOW, HE STILL HAS A CHANCE TO PREVENT A CONFLICT WHICH CAN ONLY REBOUND TO AMERICA'S DISADVANTAGE. BUT HE MUST ACT DECISIVELY AND QUICKLY."

5. GUARDIAN SPEAKS OF "GLOOM IN WASHINGTON AT THE EARLY RESULTS OF MR. HAIG'S SOUNDINGS. HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. THATCHER OFFERED LITTLE FOR HIM TO CARRY TO ARGENTINA." STREATOR