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GRS 310

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FM FCO 121400Z APRIL 82

TO FLASH WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 697 OF 12 APRIL

INFO MODUK (DSC)

TELECON HULSE/PAKENHAM: PRESS LINE ON MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE

1. YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE A FULLER ACCOUNT OF THE LINE USED BY THE MOD AT NOON TODAY (WHICH WAS CLEARED WITH MR NOTT). THE MOD SAID THE FOLLOWING ON THE RECORD:

QUOTE AT 0400 GMT THIS MORNING THE MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE WAS ESTABLISHED AROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE ON 7 APRIL. NO NAVAL INCIDENT HAS BEEN REPORTED. NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY REPORT OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS OR NAVAL AUXILIARIES WITHIN THE ZONE SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED UNQUOTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE USED: QUOTE THE FUTURE OF THE MEZ DEPENDS OF COURSE ON THE ACHIEVEMENT ON THE OVERALL AIM OF HMG IN THIS SITUATION WHICH IS TO BRING ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION UNQUOTE.

3. THE MOD WOULD REFUSE TO BE DRAWN ON QUESTIONS ABOUT RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MANY VESSELS OF THE ROYAL NAVY THERE ARE IN THE AREA, THE SPOKESMAN WOULD REFUSE TO COMMENT AND QUOTE HIS SECRETARY OF STATE AS SAYING THAT WE WOULD NOT DECLARE A MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE WITHOUT THE CAPABILITY TO IMPOSE IT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MANY ARGENTINE VESSELS ARE NEAR THE ZONE THE MOD WOULD SAY: QUOTE AS I HAVE SAID, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORT OF ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSELS WITHIN THE ZONE. ALL BUT ONE OR TWO OF THE VESSELS ARE IN PORT ON THE MAINLAND. BEYOND THIS, I WOULD NOT WISH TO DETAIL ACTUAL SHIPS' POSITIONS UNQUOTE.

5. FINALLY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT MERCHANT SHIPPING IN THE ZONE THE MOD WOULD SAY:

/QUOTE

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QUOTE WE ARE KEEPING A VERY CLOSE WATCH ON THIS. I AM NOT
PREPARED HOWEVER TO GO INTO DETAIL UNQUOTE.

6. FOR THE TIME BEING WE WOULD NOT WISH YOU TO DEPART FROM THE
ABOVE LINE.

PYM

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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(24)

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OTTAWA UKMIS NEW YORK.

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DESKBY 130800Z EC CAPITALS UKDEL NATO

FM FCO 121859Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 66 OF 12 APRIL

AND TO IMMEDIATE MONTEVIDEO, LIMA, BOGOTA, SANTIAGO
CARACAS, OTTAWA, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,
EC CAPITALS, UKDEL NATO TOKYO MOSCOW LISBON UKREP BRUSSELS
AND TO PRIORITY LA PAZ, QUITO, GEORGETOWN, MEXICO CITY, ASUNCION,
PANAMA CITY,.

FALKLAND: MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE.

PRESS LINE.

1. AT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON TODAY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE RECORD:

QUOTE AT 0400 GMT THIS MORNING THE MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE WAS
ESTABLISHED AROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE ON 7 APRIL. NO NAVAL INCIDENT
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QUOTE THE FUTURE OF THE MEZ DEPENDS OF COURSE ON THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE OVERALL AIM OF HMG IN THIS SITUATION WHICH IS TO BRING
ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION UNQUOTE.

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4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MANY ARGENTINE VESSELS ARE NEAR THE ZONE THE MOD WOULD SAY:
QUOTE AS I HAVE SAID, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORT OF ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSELS WITHIN THE ZONE. ALL BUT ONE OR TWO OF THE VESSELS ARE IN PORT ON THE MAINLAND. BEYOND THIS, I WOULD NOT WISH TO DETAIL ACTUAL SHIPS' POSITIONS UNQUOTE.
5. FINALLY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT MERCHANT SHIPPING IN THE ZONE THE MOD WOULD SAY:
QUOTE WE ARE KEEPING A VERY CLOSE WATCH ON THIS. I AM NOT PREPARED HOWEVER TO GO INTO DETAIL UNQUOTE.
6. YOU SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM THIS LINE.

PYM

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