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FM WASHINGTON 162358Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1323 OF 16 APRIL

ALQ 50/304/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

MY TELEGRAM NO. 1308: (58)
ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR SATELLITE COVERAGE OF FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. WE LEARNED THIS AFTERNOON FROM CHARLES WHEELER (BBC) THAT PRESS ASSOCIATION IS CARRYING A STORY ABOUT THE ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR A LANDSAT SATELLITE COVERAGE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THAT HE INTENDED TO USE THIS IN HIS EVENING BROADCAST FROM WASHINGTON TODAY. WE GAVE NO COMMENT HERE, BUT INFORMED BLACKWILL, (STATE DEPARTMENT) OF THIS INCIDENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LINE WHEELER MAY HAVE TAKEN WAS THAT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN SOMETHING WHICH GALTIERI TELEPHONED PRESIDENT REAGAN ABOUT YESTERDAY.

2. EAGLEBURGER SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED THE MINISTER AND SPOKE WITH SOME HEAT ABOUT THIS. IT HAD PLACED HIM IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION. IT WAS HE WHO HAD INSISTED THAT WE SHOULD BE TOLD OF THE ARGENTINIAN REQUEST. NOW HE HAD A MASSIVE PROBLEM ON HIS HANDS. IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP NASA GOING AHEAD. HE RECOGNISED THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WAS ILL-PLACED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT LEAKS. BUT FROM EAGLEBURGER'S POINT OF VIEW AS THE ONE PERSON IN A POSITION TO HELP US, THIS ONE WAS DISASTROUS.

3. STATE DEPARTMENT ARE WORKING OUT A LINE OF COMMENT. IT SEEMED INEVITABLE THAT THIS WOULD BE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ARGENTINE REQUEST WAS WITHIN THE NORMAL PATTERNS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION AND HAD THEREFORE BEEN ALLOWED TO GO AHEAD.

HENDERSON

FCO
S AM D
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES TO
PS/CHANCELLOR }
SIR K COUZENS }
MR LITTLE } TREASURY
MR HAWTIN }
MR PERETZ }
MR ILETT }

MR FULLER DIO CABINET OFFICE
MISS DICKSON (EIP DIVN) D/ENERGY

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