

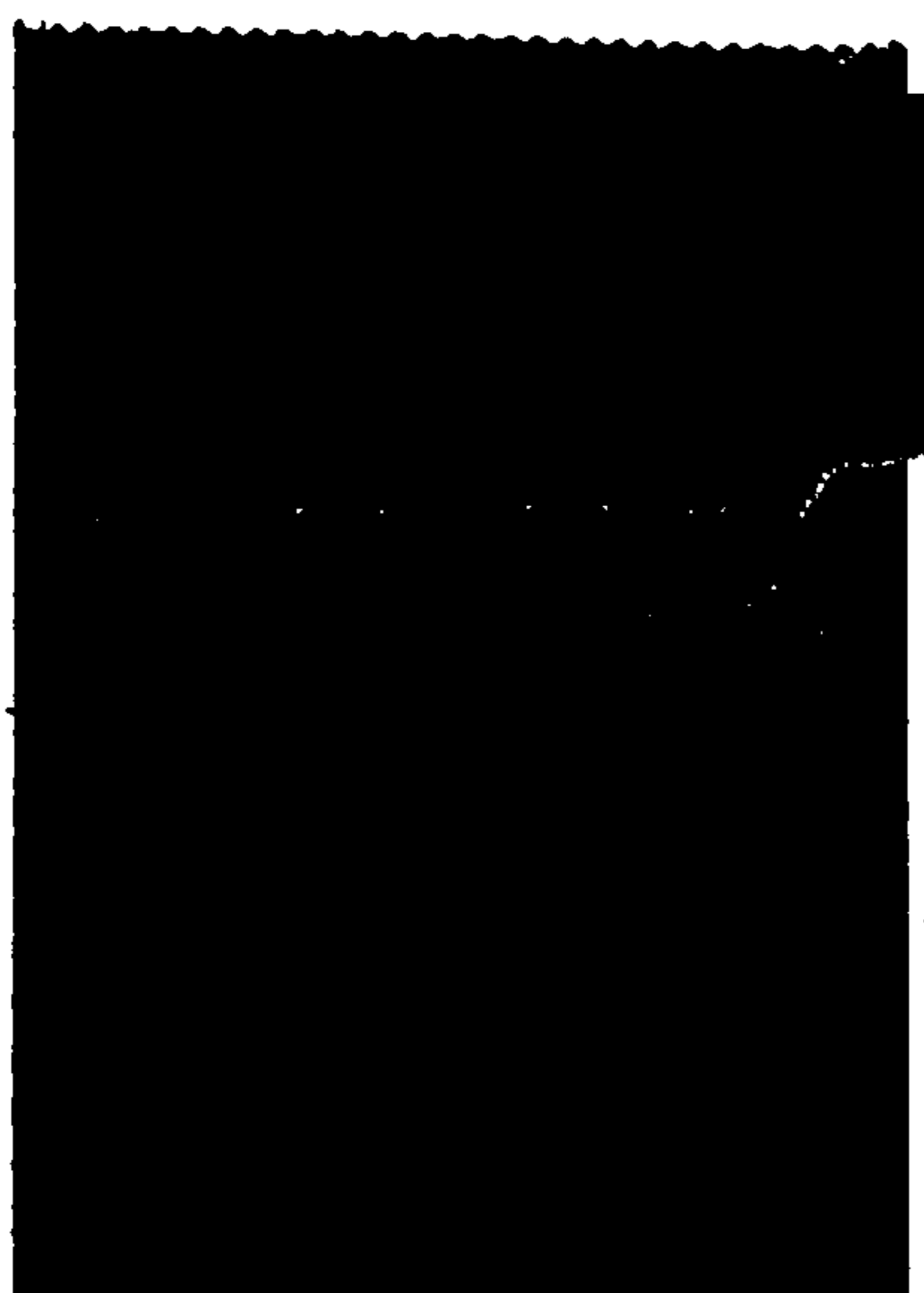
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

3445

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SIT276

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INFO CSE

~~TOP SECRET~~ - ~~DELICATE SOURCE~~ (UNITED KINGDOM
~~CLASSIFIED~~)



DATED 17 APRIL 1982

THE FOLLOWING IS AN IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT/JIC (82) (IA) 29 PREPARED BY THE LATIN AMERICA CURRENT INTELLIGENCE GROUP AT THEIR MEETING WHICH ENDED AT NOON ON 17 APRIL 1982 FALKLAND ISLANDS - 17 APRIL 1982 - TOP SECRET UMBRA - DELICATE SOURCE (UNITED KINGDOM CLASSIFIED)

MAIN POINTS

A LARGE PART OF THE ARGENTINE FLEET IS BELIEVED TO BE AT SEA. ARGENTINA HAS REQUESTED ~~LANDSAT PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE~~ OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR 21-23 APRIL. TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS HAVE THREATENED BRITISH CITIZENS AND INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY. ARGENTINA HAS PREPARED A DRAFT NOTE FOR INVOKING ACTION UNDER THE RIO TREATY. THE SOVIET UNION IS REPORTED TO BE READY TO OFFER ARGENTINA SHIPS, AIRCRAFT AND LAND BASED MISSILES IN EXCHANGE FOR GRAIN. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS DENIED IN A TELEGRAM TO THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN VENEZUELA THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS PROVIDING INTELLIGENCE MATERIAL. THE HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE AREA IS UNUSUAL.
ARGENTINE MILITARY

1. A GROUP OF FOUR ARGENTINE WARSHIPS WAS NOTED TO BE ABOUT 70 MILES SOUTH EAST OF THEIR BASE PORT OF PUERTO BELGRANO ON THE EVENING OF 16 APRIL; THEY WERE POSSIBLY INVOLVED IN GUNNERY FIRING AND TACTICAL EXERCISES. WE BELIEVE ANOTHER GROUP OF SHIPS WHICH PROBABLY INCLUDES THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, IS AT SEA. WE DO NOT KNOW ITS POSITION. THERE IS NOW EVIDENCE THAT SHORT RANGE GROUND TO AIR MISSILES HAVE BEEN SITED CLOSE TO PORT STANLEY AIRFIELD.

2. ARGENTINA WHICH IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE LANDSAT PROJECT, HAS MADE A REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE LANDSAT PHOTOGRAPHIC SATELLITE TO BE TASKED TO COVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON 21-23 APRIL. THE SATELLITE WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE NO INFORMATION OF MILITARY

Note

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

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By MEI, NARS, Date 7/18/02

~~TOP SECRET CODEWORD~~

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VALUE AND IT PRODUCES VERY LOW RESOLUTION PHOTOGRAPHS (80 METER). THE COVERAGE WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THEMSELVES AND A FEW MILES OF SURROUNDING SEA. WE DOUBT WHETHER ARGENTINA WOULD BE ABLE TO DERIVE ANY MILITARY INFORMATION OF VALUE FROM THIS SATELLITE ON THIS OCCASION, BUT IF THE UNITED STATES GRANTS THIS REQUEST THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WOULD OUTWEIGH THE MILITARY. ARGENTINE INTERNAL

3. THREE BRITISH JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN ARGENTINA APPARENTLY ON CHARGES OF SPYING. REPORTS INDICATE THAT TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GROUPS FROM LATIN AMERICA MIGHT TAKE ACTION IN BRITAIN OR AGAINST BRITISH MISSIONS ABROAD. THE STAFF OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO ARE AT PARTICULAR RISK.

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

4. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS PREPARED A DRAFT NOTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS REQUESTING A SPECIAL MEETING TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON ACTION UNDER THE RIO TREATY.

(SUCH CONSULTATIONS IN THE OAS GOVERNING BOARD MAY PRECEDE A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE RIO TREATY STATES, ACTING AS THE RIO TREATY ORGAN OF CONSULTATION). THE MINISTRY HAS NOT AS YET INSTRUCTED ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO PRESENT THE NOTE; WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ARGENTINA IS LIKELY TO DO THIS WHILE MR HAIGS MISSION CONTINUES.