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OO WASHINGTON DESKBY 181730Z

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INDEX	PA	Action Taken

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FM FCO 181445Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 750 OF 18 APRIL

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK (DEFENCE SITUATION CENTRE AND DMS1)

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YOUR TELNO 1329: FALKLAND ISLAND'S: SATELLITE COVERAGE

1. YOU WILL WISH TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING FOR USE IF NECESSARY IN PARLIAMENT AND WITH THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT. IT HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH THE US EMBASSY HERE AND DRAWS HEAVILY ON THE PRESS GUIDANCE SENT TO THEM BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT:

A) THE MEDIA STORIES MAY SPRING FROM THE FACT THAT ARGENTINA - LIKE THE UK AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES - PARTICIPATES IN CIVILIAN SATELLITE PROGRAMMES RUN BY THE US NATIONAL AERNAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) AND NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA). THESE PROGRAMMES ARE NOT INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMMES AND ARE NOT MILITARY IN NATURE. INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THESE PROGRAMMES IS UNCLASSIFIED AND IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO DERIVE ANY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FROM THESE PROGRAMMES.

B) THE US ADMINISTRATION HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT PROVIDING ARGENTINA WITH SATELLITE INTELLIGENCE ABOUT BRITISH ACTIONS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE. SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG SAID ON 14 APRIL THAT 'SINCE THE ONSET OF THE CRISIS, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ACCEDDED TO REQUESTS THAT WOULD GO BEYOND THE SCOPE OF CUSTOMARY PATTERNS OF COOPERATION BASED ON EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR STAND WHILE OUR EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY'.

PYM

Fco
SAMd

ADDITIONAL DIST:

FALKLAND ISLAND

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