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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
NSCE-00 ARA-16 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 HA-06 L-03
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 INRE-00 SAL-01 ANAE-00
ACDA-12 ICAE-00 SYE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /092 W
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O 041643Z MAY 82
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6547
INFO NATO COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09710

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 05-04-1992 (WOESSNER, WILLIAM M.) OR-M
TAGS:PEPR, UK, AR, GE, FA
SUBJECT: FALKLANDS DISPUTE: FRG CONCERNS ABOUT BRITISH
- POLICY

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOREIGN OFFICE CONCERN ABOUT THE FALKLANDS CRISIS
HAS MOUNTED FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF THE ARGENTINE
CRUISER. LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER LIMMER
(PROTECT) TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER MAY 4 THAT "SOME OF US"
REGARD THE SINKING OF THAT SHIP OUTSIDE THE ZONE AS "OUT
OF PROPORTION" TO THE PROBLEM. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
THE BRITISH ARE "OUT OF CONTROL" AND MAY GO TOO FAR.

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3. LIMMER SAID THERE WOULD BE "NO DRAMATIC" CHANGE IN
THE FRG POSITION. HE EXPLAINED THAT BONN WANTS TO
MAINTAIN "SOLIDARITY" WITH LONDON AS LONG AS POSSIBLE,
IF ONLY TO AVOID SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN EUROPEAN RELATIONS.
BUT, POINTING TO REPORTS THAT THE IRISH ARE RECONSIDERING
THEIR POSITION, LIMMER WARNED THAT EC SOLIDARITY WITH
BRITAIN COULD BREAK DOWN IF THE BRITISH GO TOO FAR.
HE SAID MANY EC COUNTRIES JUST DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE
HARD POSITION OF THE BRITISH.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Alan Flanigan, Senior Reviewer

4. LIMMER CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD TELEPHONED PRIME MINISTER THATCHER APRIL 29 TO CONVEY HIS WORRY ABOUT THE FALKLANDS AND TO EXPRESS PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT THE SOVIETS MAY GAIN A Foothold IN ARGENTINA AS A RESULT OF THE AFFAIR. THATCHER AGREED ABOUT SUCH A DANGER. SCHMIDT ALSO COMMENTED ON BRITISH ADMIRAL WOODWARD'S REMARKS AND WAS TOLD SUCH COMMENTS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. HE FURTHER OBTAINED THATCHER'S AGREEMENT TO MAKE CLEAR IN A STATEMENT ADDRESSING BBC STORY ABOUT FRG NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NO DOUBTS THAT THE FRG DID NOT ACT IMPROPERLY.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS HAVE FROM THE START EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS ABOUT BRITISH POLICY TOWARD THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE THIRD WORLD GORENFLOS IN DISCUSSION AT THE DCM'S RESIDENCE LAST WEEK VOICED CONFIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD NOT COME TO AN OPEN CONFLICT THERE. THE SINKING OF THE ARGENTINE CRUISER, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT OCCURRED OUTSIDE THE WAR ZONE ORIGINALLY DECLARED BY THE BRITISH, HAS SHOCKED GERMAN OFFICIALS, IF LIMMER'S REACTION IS ANY INDICATION. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION BONN WOULD STICK BY CONFIDENTIAL

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LONDON ON GROUNDS OF EC SOLIDARITY, BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS DISCUSSION THAT SUCH SOLIDARITY HAS ITS LIMITS.
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