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 FM PARIS 051100Z MAY 1982
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 421 OF 5 MAY 1982

FALKLANDS: FRENCH ATTITUDE

1. PRESIDENT MITTERRAND WAS ASKED ABOUT THE FALKLANDS CRISIS ON 4 MAY IN THE COURSE OF AN INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE WITH JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM ON A VISIT TO CENTRAL FRANCE. HE IS QUOTED BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE AS CRITICISING "THE METHODS USED BY ARGENTINA WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW", THOUGH HE APPEARS TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WAS TAKING UP NO POSITION ON ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO THE FALKLANDS. HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE RESERVED THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERVENING WITH OTHERS IN THE CONFLICT WHEN HE HAD SOME CHANCE OF INFLUENCING EVENTS.

FRETWELL

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