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DESKBY 131800Z

FROM U K MISSION NEW YORK 131534Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 454 OF 13 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON ROUTINE EC CAPITALS UKDEL NATO.
FALKLANDS: UNITED NATIONS.

1. MIFT CONTAINS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH WAS CIRCULATED LATE ON THE EVENING OF 12 APRIL. I CONSIDER THAT WE SHOULD CIRCULATE AN EARLY REPLY TO THIS LATEST ARGENTINE MOVE IN THE PROPAGANDA WAR HERE, AND WILL TELEGRAPH A DRAFT LATER TODAY.
2. THE MINISTER AT THE ARGENTINE MISSION TO THE UN, HERRERA VEGAS,

WAS INTERVIEWED ON ABC

TELEVISION'S "NIGHTLINE" AT 2330 LOCAL ON 12 APRIL ABOUT THE LETTER. THE INTERVIEWER BILLED IT AS THE FIRST INDICATION OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE ARGENTINES WERE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE FALKLANDS. VEGAS TOOK THE LINE THAT IT WAS FOR BOTH SIDES TO COMPLY WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF SCR 502 SIMULTANEOUSLY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF 502, THEREFORE, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO CEASE ITS HOSTILITIES AGAINST ARGENTINA. VEGAS DEFINED THESE HOSTILITIES AS COMPRISING (I) THE ADVANCE OF THE NAVAL TASK FORCE: (II) THE NAVAL BLOCKADE: (III) THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AGAINST ARGENTINA. THE INTERVIEWER POINTED OUT THAT ECONOMIC MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. VEGAS REPLIED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE MEASURES HAD TO BE ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO THE UK. VEGAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 502 WAS THE MAINTENANCE OF ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS.

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