

UNCLASSIFIED

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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 332 OF 15 APRIL

INFO SAVING DUBLIN PARIS ROME LUXEMBURG COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE UKREP
BRUSSELS BRUSSELS ATHENS WASHINGTON UKDEL NATO UKHIS NEW YORK

NY TELNO 325: FALKLANDS: GERMAN PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENT

1. AFTER YESTERDAY'S WEEKLY MEETING OF THE FEDERAL CABINET THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE CABINET HAD AGAIN DISCUSSED THE QUOTE FALKLAND-MALVINE-ISLANDS UNQUOTE (THE OFFICIAL UN EXPRESSION, HE EXPLAINED TO A QUESTIONER). THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTED HAIG'S NEGOTIATING EFFORTS AND HOPED THAT ARMED CONFLICT COULD BE AVOIDED. THEY WANTED SCR 302 TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN ALL ITS THREE ELEMENTS. THE ECONOMIC MEASURES DISCUSSED IN THE EC WERE AN EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY. THEY SAW THE CONFLICT ALSO IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA, TO WHICH THEY ATTACHED IMPORTANCE.
2. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THIS WEEK'S DIE ZEIT, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SPOKE ROBUSTLY IN SUPPORT OF THE UK OVER THE FALKLANDS ISSUE (FOR TEXT SEE MIFT, NOT TO ALL).
3. THE GERMAN PRESS CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE BRITISH CAUSE. MOST ACCOUNTS OF YESTERDAY'S COMMONS DEBATE REPORT THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING FIRMFNESS IN FAVOURABLE TERMS. A SIGNED EDITORIAL BY FACK IN THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG LISTS THE REASONS WHY THE GERMANS MUST SUPPORT THE BRITISH ON THE FALKLANDS AND SHOWS RESPECT FOR BRITAIN'S QUOTE UNBENDING ATTITUDE, MIXING FIRMFNESS ON PRINCIPLES WITH READINESS TO COMPROMISE UNQUOTE. BRITAIN HAS THE SUPPORT OF ITS ALLIES, AND THE TACIT SYMPATHY OF MUCH OF THE WORLD, WHICH DOES NOT WANT CONFLICTS SOLVED BY A LA GALTIERI. BUT FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, IN YESTERDAY'S EDITION WAS AMONG THOSE CRITICISING QUOTE INTRANSIGENCE AND NATIONAL PRIDE UNQUOTE ON BOTH SIDES.
4. THERE IS FURTHER CRITICISM OF AMERICAN QUOTE NEUTRALITY UNQUOTE, THOUGH GENERAL ANZEIGER POINTS OUT THAT THIS QUOTE ODD UNQUOTE POSTURE COULD TURN OUT TO BE A TRUMP CARD, AND HAIG'S MISSION IS WIDELY SEEN AS THE LAST CHANCE OF AVOIDING WAR.

/NERVOUSNESS

NERVOUSNESS AT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS FAILING SHOWS THROUGH IN SOME PAPERS. RHEINISCHE POST SAYS THAT EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON LONDON NOT GOING TOO FAR: BRITAIN'S CONCERN IS FOR THE ISLANDERS, AND THEY WILL BEST BE HELPED BY A COMPROMISE, NOT BY A BLOODY ENCOUNTER. JANSSEN, WRITING IN THE SAME VEIN IN DIE ZEIT, COMMENTS THAT A NEUTRAL EMISSARY COULD ASCERTAIN THE ISLANDERS' OPINION WITHIN HALF AN HOUR. BUT WHEN THE MOST SACRED PRINCIPLES OF THE NATION ARE AT STAKE, WHO HAS EVER ASKED THE LITTLE MAN?
FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES

TAYLOR

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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INFORMATION)
S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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MR FULLER SAPU CABINET OFFICE
MISS DICKSON (EIP DIVN) D/ENERGY
2. [PASSED AS REQUESTED]