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TELEGRAM NUMBER 1430 OF 23 APRIL

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MY TELNO 1329 AND TELECON PAKENHAM/HULSE:
ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR SATELLITE COVERAGE

1. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NASA DULY PROGRAMMED THE LANDSAT SATELLITE TO TAKE THE REQUIRED PICTURES WHEN IN POSITION. THIS OCCURRED OVER THE THREE-DAY PERIOD 21-23 APRIL, WITH DATA BEING FED BY REAL TIME TO THE EARTH STATION IN ARGENTINA. THE ARGENTINIANS POSSESS THE ABILITY TO PROCESS THE DATA THEMSELVES AS SOON AS IT IS TRANSPORTED (BY TRUCK) FROM THE GROUND STATION TO BUENOS AIRES. THE US ESTIMATE OF THE TIME REQUIRED FOR PROCESSING VARIES BETWEEN SEVERAL HOURS AND TWO/THREE DAYS.

2. US OFFICIALS EXPECT TO HAVE OBTAINED BY EARLY NEXT WEEK THE DATA AVAILABLE TO THE ARGENTINIANS AND HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE THIS TO US.

3. HAVING REVIEWED ALL AVAILABLE LANDSAT PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE AREA SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAMME, THEY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE QUALITY OF THE PICTURES OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND SOUTH GEORGIA (BECAUSE OF CLOUD COVER) IS EXTREMELY POOR.

4. THEY HAVE NOTED THAT A REPORTER FROM ITN QUOTE WEEKEND WORLD UNQUOTE RECENTLY INTERVIEWED THE HEAD OF THE NASA INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT AND ASKED SOME GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARGENTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE LANDSAT PROGRAMME.

HENDERSON

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