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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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FALKLANDS: COSTA MENDEZ

ASKED ON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK TODAY WHETHER, FOLLOWING THIS MORNING'S SUBMARINE INCIDENT OFF SOUTH GEORGIA, BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA WERE NOW AT WAR, COSTA MENDEZ REPLIED:
QUOTE TECHNICALLY, YES UNQUOTE.

2. STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THAT COSTA MENDEZ WAS BEING HARRIED BY NEWSMEN AND DO NOT BELIEVE HIS REMARK SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A FORMAL STATEMENT OF THE ARGENTINE POSITION. THEY HAVE ADVISED US TO AWAIT WHATEVER COSTA MENDEZ MAY SAY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH HAIG (WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT HAIG WILL TRY TO RESTRAIN COSTA MENDEZ FROM SAYING ANYTHING WHICH WOULD ESCALATE THE DISPUTE).

3. STATE DEPARTMENT THEMSELVES ARE STICKING TO THE PRESS GUIDANCE THEY HAVE BEEN USING SINCE THIS MORNING'S SUBMARINE INCIDENT, NAMELY THAT THIS IS A FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE URGENCY OF A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION: QUOTE THE US REMAINS COMMITTED TO THAT OBJECTIVE AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR ONGOING EFFORTS UNQUOTE.

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