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SITUATION LISTING

DATE 05/26/82//146

SITUATION: FALKLAND  
 SUBJECT CATAGORY: FILE IX

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

DIA REVIEWED 12-Mar-2010: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

CRI391

RR RUEADWW

DE RUEKJCS #1941 1311031

ZNY CCCCC

R 111031Z MAY 82

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//NMIC//

INFO WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

R 101420Z MAY 82

FM

[REDACTED] 25x1  
 TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//JSI-4B/DB-3E/US-1//JSI-4//FAITF/DC-1/DC-4  
 INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//SCJ2-IAD//

RUESUZ

RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//DB-3E1

[REDACTED] 25x1

RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//JSI-4A

RULPALJ/USCINCSO//SCJ2-PLOPS//

RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//DB-3B

RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//DC-4A

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L 175

SUBJ:

[REDACTED] 25x1  
 OFFICER CORPS REACTION TO US SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN (U)

[REDACTED] 25x1

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, AND NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELL

1. (U) CTRY: BRAZIL (BR)/UNITED KINGDOM (UK)/ARGENTINA (AR)

2/ (U)

3. (U) TITLE: RIO BASED OFFICER CORPS REACTION TO US SUPPORT FOR  
 BRITAIN

4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 820505

5. (U) ORIG:

6. (U) REQ REFS: U-UCR-42080 T-XXX-42015X

7. (U)

9. (C) SUMMARY: RIO-BASED GENERAL AND SENIOR GRADE OFFICERS CAREFULLY  
 DIFFERENTIATE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS REGARDING THE OPEN AND FULL  
 US SUPPORT FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

9A. (C) DETAILS: RIO-BASED GENERAL OFFICERS REACTED NEGATIVELY TO  
 THE ATTACK ON THE US BY AIR MINISTER DELIO. THEIR COMMENT WAS, "...  
 WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A MAN WHO ANCHORED HIS CLASS?" THE FEELING  
 IN THE ARMY IS THAT DELIO IS A MAN OF RATHER MODEST INTELLECTUAL  
 TALENTS AND HIS PUBLIC ATTACK ON THE US SUSTAINED THEIR BELIEF.

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THE THOUGHT AMONG THE FLAG OFFICERS IN RIO IS THE US HAD NO OPTION BUT TO THROW FULL SUPPORT TO GREAT BRITAIN. THEY WERE QUICK TO POINT OUT BRAZIL HAD TO PUBLICALLY SHOW DISMAY OVER THE US ACTION BUT NOTED BRAZIL HAD NO VESTED INTEREST IN "...SUPPORTING AGGRESSION AND COMING OUT IN FAVOR OF SETTLEING LAND DISPUTES WITH FORCE." ONE SENIOR COLONEL NOTED, "...BRAZILS FOREIGN POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA FOR THE PAST 150 YEARS HAS BEEN AIMED AT MAINTAINING STATUS QUO AND PROMOTING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF BORDER DISPUTES, IF ARGENTINA 'GUT AWAY' WITH SEIZING THE FALKLANDS WHAT WOULD KEEP EVERY FESTERING TERRITORIAL SORE IN LATIN AMERICA FROM ERUPTING? STARTING WITH VENEZUELA AND GUYANA, BOLIVIA'S DRIVE FOR THE SEA, PERU-CHILE, THE REAGLE CHANNEL AND ENDING WHO KNOWS WHERE," HE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING "...THERE ARE ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES IN THIS CASE, EITHER ARGENTINA WIMS OR AT LEAST COMES OUT WITH THE FALKLANDS OR THEY LOSE. IF THEY WIN, PANDORA'S BOX IS OPENED IN LATIN AMERICA. IF THEY LOSE, GALTIERI WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FALL AND THE LEFTISTS MAY GAIN A Foothold AND MAYBE EVEN THE RUSSIANS WILL GET IN THE DOOR. "OBVIOUSLY, BRAZIL HAS NO DESIRE FOR EITHER A LEFTIST REGIME OR RUSSIAN INFLUENCE ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER BELXN HANDLE LEFTIST NEIGHBORS, WE DID IT IN CHILE AND URUGUAY AND WE CAN DO IT IN ARGENTINA IF WE HAVE TO. WHAT WE CAN'T HANDLE IS A HALF DUZEN BRUSHFIRES AROUND OUR BORDERS AT THE SAME TIME. IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST FOR ARGENTINA TO LOSE." THE US DID COME IN FOR CRITICISM ON ONE ASPECT OF ITS HANDLING OF THE PROBLEM. THE CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE THE US WAS HYPNOTIZED BY THE FALKLANDS AND FORGETTING TO MIND THE STORE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. ONE COLONEL NOTED, "...WHILE SECRETARY HAIG IS RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO MEDIATE, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO IS KEEPING TABS ON CENTRAL AMERICA? THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR CUBAN PUPPETS ARE SLOWLY BUT SURELY CUTTING THE AMERICAS IN TWO AND THAT IS SOMETHING WE CANNOT TOLERATE. CENTRAL AMERICA IS WHERE THE REAL POTENTIAL DISASTER LIES, NOT IN ARGENTINA." WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY BELIEVED COULD BE DONE TO SOLVE THE CENTRAL AMERICA PROBLEM THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ONE COLONEL WHO SAID, "...WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS A SPANISH SPEAKING PEACH FORCE TO STOP THE FIGHTING WHILE THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS SORTED OUT," WHEN ASKED IF THEY BELIEVED BRAZIL WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A PROPOSAL, THEY REPLIED, "...WE SAID A SPANISH SPEAKING FORCE AND NO YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T DEPEND ON ITAMARITY TO SUPPORT SUCH A PLAN". WHILE DISCUSSING BRAZILIAN ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA, THE CONSENSUS WAS BRAZIL WAS, IN FACT, DOING THE US A FAVOR BY PREVENTING THE RUSSIANS FROM FURNISHING THE ARGENTINE NEEDS, AND AS ONE OFFICER NOTED, "...IT REALLY ISN'T EVEN GOOD BUSINESS ON OUR PART. WITH THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY IN THE SHAMBLES, WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER GET PAID ANYWAY."

9B. (C) DRIG COMMENTS: THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR TO ME IN TALKING WITH THE RIO BASED OFFICER CORPS. THE US POSITION WAS INEVITABLE AND IN

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FACT CORRECT. BRAZIL CANNOT PUBLICALLY SAY THAT HOWEVER AND WILL NOT, THERE SEEMS TO BE A REALIZATION BRAZIL'S BEST INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY AN ARGENTINE DEFEAT EVEN IF IT MEANS TEMPORARY STRAINS ON THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM AS THE ALTERNATIVE OF SETTLING BORDER DISPUTES WITH FORCE WOULD PUT FAR GREATER STRESS ON THE "UNITY" OF THE LATIN NATIONS.

10. (U) PROJ NO: NONE

11. (U) COLL MGMT CODES: NONE

12. (U) SPEC INST: DIRC-ND

13. (U)

14. (U)

25x1

15. (U) REQ EVAL: YES REL TO: NO

16. (U) ENCL: NONE

17. (U) DIST BY ORIG: NONE

DECLAS ON: 5MAY 89

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