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ZZ UKMIS NEW YORK
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FM FCO 232015Z MAY 82
 TO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 459 OF 23 MAY 1982
 AND TO FLASH WASHINGTON, UKREP BRUSSELS (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE)

FALKLANDS

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE MOD AT 2000Z TO-NIGHT 23 MAY:

2. BEGINS: DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THE ARGENTINE AIRFORCE LAUNCHED A NUMBER OF RAIDS ON SHIPS OF THE TASK FORCE IN SAN CARLOS WATERS. THE AIRCRAFT WERE ENGAGED BY MISSILES FROM SURFACE VESSELS, SHORE BASED RAPIER AND BY SEA HARRIERS. 5 MIRAGE AND 1 SKYHAWK ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN: A FURTHER 1 MIRAGE AND 2 SKYHAWKS WERE PROBABLY SHOT DOWN.
3. DURING THESE ATTACKS ONE OF OUR FRIGATES SUSTAINED SOME DAMAGE.. NO REPORTS ON THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED: NOR HAVE ANY INDICATION OF CASUALTIES. WE HAVE HAD NO REPORTS OF OTHER DAMAGE TO BRITISH SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT.
4. IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT EARLIER SEA HARRIERS FROM THE TASK FORCE ON ROUTINE PATROL SAW 2 ARGENTINE PUMA AND 1 BELL HELICOPTERS IN THE FALKLAND SOUND JUST OFF THE COAST OF WEST FALKLAND. THE HARRIERS ATTACKED AND ONE FUMA EXPLODED: THE BELL HELICOPTER LANDED BUT WAS SEEN TO BE ON FIRE AND THE SECOND PUMA MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.
5. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF FURTHER ACTION AT PRESENT. ENDS.

PYM

FALKLAND ISLAND GENERAL

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 FALKLAND ISLANDS

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