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2/AA/090108-82

SIGINT ALERT MARGAY

ARGENTINE

Spanish

K25X/NM2772/14/06/82

TAG ARA JOPS JOEF AR FL GB

ARGENTINE AIRFORCE CONVERSATIONS FROM FALKLANDS ON 13 JUNE
INDICATE LIMIT OF ARGENTINE RESISTENCE ESTIMATED AT ONLY
24 TO 48 HOURS

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I. SUMMARY

1. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE MESSAGES BETWEEN UNIDENTIFIED ARGENTINE AIRFORCE ENTITIES ON THE FALKLANDS AND A SENIOR AUTHORITY ON THE MAINLAND DURING THE PERIOD 131515Z AND 131815Z JUNE. THEY ARE UNEVALUATED AND BASED ON FIELD TRANSLATIONS.

2. THE MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST TO EMERGE WERE AS FOLLOWS: -

- A. 140 WOUNDED HAD BEEN SUSTAINED UP TO 1515Z.
- B. ARGENTINE FORCES WOULD EVACUATE IF ((ENEMY)) ARTILLERY CAME CLOSER THAN 6 KILOMETRES. BY 1810Z THE "CORPS" WAS REACHING ITS LIMIT AND THIS WAS ESTIMATED AT NO MORE THAN 24 TO 48 HOURS.
- C. THE FINAL BRITISH ATTACK WAS EXPECTED ON THE NIGHT OF 13-14 JUNE PROBABLY FOLLOWING THE USUAL 0200 HOURS (LOCAL) BOMBARDMENT.
- D. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BRITISH MOBILE BATTERIES WAS EMPHASIZED.
- E. AT 1807Z A HIGH LEVEL COMMANDER WAS INFORMED OF THE "REALITY OF THE SITUATION" - THAT COMMAND LEVELS ON THE ISLAND WERE NOT IN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND THAT THE "FINAL DECISION" WAS PROBABLY TO BE TAKEN SOON.

II. DETAILS

ITEM 1

GIST OF ACTIVITY.

131515Z. 140 WOUNDED AS A RESULT OF ATTACKS BY GROUND FORCES, ARTILLERY AND AIRCRAFT DURING THE NIGHT AND MORNING OF 12/13 JUNE. THIS MORNING THE TROOPS WERE CALM. THE ARTILLERY IS PRACTICALLY ON TOP OF THEM FIRING AT THEM AND ON THE AIRPORT.

ITEM 2

131515Z. GIST OF ACTIVITY

ALMIRANTE IRAZAR (WILL PROBABLY BE USED) FOR THE CASUALTIES. WE ARE PRACTICALLY AT OUR LIMIT. WE ARE ON THE POINT OF EVACUATING. THE ARTILLERY IS APPROX (6 KILOMETRES) AWAY, IF IT COMES CLOSER WE WILL EVACUATE.



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ITEM 3

131805Z. AT THIS MOMENT THE SITUATION IN WHICH WE ARE (1 WORD U/R) WE ARE DOING THE SAME REGARDING THE AIRFORCE. WE ALREADY ESTIMATE THAT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE IN EMPLOYING THE AIRFORCE. WE CAME UNDER FIRE AT ABOUT 0700 THIS MORNING FROM AN ARTILLERY COMPANY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTAIN THE ENEMY BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT MOBILITY IN ALL ITS BATTERIES. THEIR EQUIPMENT IS OF HIGH PRECISION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IMPAIRED DURING ITS SERVICE. EVERY IMPRESSION INDICATES THAT BY THE LAST HOURS OF THE AFTERNOON THE FIELD ARTILLERY WILL BE REDUCED BY THIRTY PERCENT.

ITEM 4

131810Z. OUR FORWARD DEFENCES HAVE CLOSED THEIR POSITIONS WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF THE ENEMY (3 WORDS U/R). THEY BROUGHT IN A FRESH BATTALION AND WE ESTIMATE THAT TONIGHT WILL PRODUCE THE FINAL ATTACK. THE ENEMY IS APPROX 3-5 KILOMETRES FROM THE TOWN. OUR CORPS IS REACHING ITS LIMIT I ESTIMATE 24-48 HOURS NO MORE. (1 WORD U/R) THE AIRFORCE (1 WORD U/R) HAVE BEEN (1 WORD U/R) OBJECTIVES OVER THE TOWN WHICH HAS BEEN VERY DANGEROUS AND IT HAS NOT BEEN REDUCED (2 WORDS U/R) WHEN AT 0200 HOURS (AGAIN AS ALWAYS) WE RECEIVED BOMBARDMENT FROM THE FRIGATES AND DESTROYERS. WE ESTIMATE THAT THEY WILL RETURN AND MAKE THE THIRD ATTACK. CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH AGAINST THE POSITIONS.

ITEM 5

1807Z-1815Z
FALKLANDS

SIR, (GBRL), I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT. I DONT KNOW BECAUSE I HAVE NEVER BEEN TOLD IF ANY HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PUT A LIMIT TO THIS OR WHAT THE LATEST ORDERS MAY BE FOR THE COMMANDER LAND FORCES FOR THIS AREA. GIVEN THE COMBAT SITUATION WE ARE RATHER SCATTERED AT THE COMMAND LEVEL AND HE IS IN A DIFFERENT COMMAND POST. ALSO THE ARTILLERY IS RIGHT ON TOP OF THE TOWN SO IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP IN TOUCH AT COMMAND LEVEL AND AS I DONT KNOW WHAT THE ORDERS ARE I WANT YOU SIR TO KNOW THIS AND THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION. I DONT KNOW WHETHER THE FINAL DECISION IS TO BE TAKEN HERE OR THERE AND IS THEN TO BE TRANSMITTED HERE. MY



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ONLY INTENTION SIR IS TO KEEP YOU OBJECTIVELY INFORMED
OF THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION.

MAINLAND (QBRL - SENSE OF REPLY) NO MESSAGE FOR NOW BUT KEEP
ME INFORMED OF THE SITUATION.

FALKLANDS RECEIVED, YOUR MESSAGE IS PERFECTLY CLEAR AND
UNDERSTOOD I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND
MUST EXCUSE MYSELF. OVER AND OUT.

ITEM 6

131815Z. FALKLANDS SUBSCRIBER TO BRIGADIER IN (BUENOS AIRES).

SIR I SAY TO YOU I DONT KNOW RIGHT NOW WHAT THE FIRM
INFORMATION IS WHICH MAY ARRIVE BY OTHER MEANS. THE 600 MEN WHICH
THE AIRFORCE STILL HAS SHOULD KNOW THE REALITY OF THE THEATRE AT
THE MOMENT. THE ESTIMATE OF THE POPULATION IS VERY DIFFICULT. HOW
UNKNOWN THE FIRST LEVEL ORDERS ARE. THE SOLE INTENTION I HAVE NOW
IS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE FACTS AS OBJECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE.



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