

GROUPS 250  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FROM DUBLIN 261020Z APRIL.  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 111 OF 26 APRIL.  
AND INFO SAVING TO EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS  
NEW YORK, AND BIS NEW YORK.

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MY TELNO 8 SAVING (NOT COPIED ELSEWHERE):

FALKLANDS: IRISH MEDIA COMMENTS.

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENTS YET FOLLOWING THE RECAPTURE OF SOUTH GEORGIA, BUT THE THREE MAIN PAPERS HAVE EDITORIALS TODAY. THE IRISH TIMES IS BRIEF IN ARGUING THAT WAR IS NOT A TOLERABLE OPTION. THE IRISH PRESS (FIANNA FAIL AND THEREFORE PRO-GOVERNMENT) SAYS THAT EVEN THOUGH ARGENTINA WAS WRONG IN INVADING, "BRITAIN WAS ALSO AT FAULT IN ACTING AFTER, RATHER THAN BEFORE, THE INVASION HAPPENED" (SIC). HOWEVER IMPORTANT THE PRINCIPLE AT STAKE, THE PRICE OF RECOVERY OF CONTROL OF THE FALKLANDS BY FORCE IS TOO HIGH. IT CONTINUES,

"EQUALLY, THE JUNTA MUST RECOGNISE THAT A BRITISH PRESENCE HAS TO BE RESTORED IF THE INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW IS TO BE UPHELD. A JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLANDS FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD, WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF A THIRD PARTY, LIKE THE UNITED STATES, WOULD MEET SUCH A REQUIREMENT".

2. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT IS, TYPICALLY, MORE SYMPATHETIC IN ARGUING THAT ARGENTINA WILL HAVE TO RECOGNISE BRITAIN'S FEELING THAT AN ACT OF AGRESSION CANNOT BE REWARDED IMMEDIATELY. IT CONTINUES:

"ON THIS ISLAND WE, OR SOME OF US, WILL HAVE TO RID OURSELVES OF SOME ERRONEOUS NOTIONS. THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE NORTHERN PROBLEM. THE FRUSTRATION OF THE ARGENTINIANS DID NOT JUSTIFY AN ACT OF AGRESSION. THE UNITED NATIONS WAS FASHIONED WITH, AMONG OTHER OBJECTIVES, THE AIM OF ENSURING THAT NATIONS NO LONGER TOOK THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. WHICH IS WHAT ARGENTINA, A MEMBER OF THE UN, DID."

FCO PLEASE PASS BY BAG TO SAVING ADDRESSEES  
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(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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