

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION SWISS EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO IMMEDIATE FCC

TELNO 68 OF 5 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO BRASILIA

## PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL THE MORNING PAPERS HEADLINE THE SINKING OF THE "SHEFFIELD". MOST THROW IN THE REPORT OF TWO HARRIERS DESTROYED AND PRESENT THESE EVENTS AS SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE BRITISH FLEET. IGLESIAS ROUCO IN "LA PRENSA" WRITES THIS IS A GOOD MOMENT FOR ARGENTINA TO UNDERTAKE A MASSIVE PEACE OFFENSIVE THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS CHAMPION OF THE UNDEVELOPED SOUTH AGAINST THE INDUSTRIALISED NORTH. SCHOENFELD, OF THE SAME PAPER, CALLS FOR A TOUGH COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AND FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR WITH ALL ITS FORMAL CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING CONTROL OF ALIENS, CONFISCATION OF ASSETS, AND SUBSEQUENT WAR INDEMNITIES AND REPARATION.

2. SURVIVORS FROM THE GENERAL BELGRANO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED USHUAIA AND THERE IS ONE NAVY REPORT THAT UP TO 820 CREW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RESCUED.

3. PROMINENCE IS GIVEN TO THE IRISH REQUEST FOR A UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. THE IMPRESSION OVERALL IS THAT THE POSITION OF THE TWO SIDES IS ABOUT EVEN AND THAT THE CONFLICT IS NEARING MATURITY FOR A SOLUTION, BUT THAT TIME IS ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE.

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