

UNCLASSIFIED

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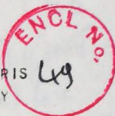
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 413 OF 06 MAY

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK UKDEL NATO DUBLIN PARIS

ROME LUXEMBOURG COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE UKREP BRUSSELS EMBASSY

BRUSSELS ATHENS



MY TELNO 404: FALKLANDS: GERMAN PRESS COMMENT

1. CALLS FOR A CEASE-FIRE DOMINATE TODAY'S GERMAN PAPERS, SOME TAKING THEIR LEAD NO DOUBT FROM THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY (MY TELNO 410).

2. SEVERAL COMMENTATORS CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT THE UK WAS THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION - NOTABLY SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG AND FAZ, WHICH IS ALONE IN REASSERTING THAT PRINCIPLES ARE AT STAKE, THAT TO TREAT BOTH PARTIES EQUALLY IS NOT LIKELY TO PRODUCE A SOLUTION, AND THAT ANY SOLUTION MUST PROVIDE AN HONOURABLE WAY OUT FOR THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION.

3. THE GENERAL VIEW CONTINUES TO BE, HOWEVER, THAT BRITAIN HAS OVER-REACTED. IN THIS CONNECTION EVEN DIE WELT, WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN ONE OF THE MOST UNCRITICAL PAPERS IN OUR SUPPORT, INCLUDES A SUGGESTION THAT PAST BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO RELINQUISH SOVEREIGNTY HONOURABLY MAKE IT ALL THE MORE ABSURD THAT LIVES SHOULD NOW BE LOST.

4. SEVERAL PAPERS SUGGEST THAT OUR ALLEGED OVER-REACTION PUTS COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IN DOUBT. SOBOTTA IN THE RHEINISCHE POST (WHO IS CLOSE TO THE CHANCELLOR, AND WHO WE ARE TOLD SAW HIM YESTERDAY) SAYS THAT QUOTE MRS THATCHER MUST BE TOLD TO TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH. SHE SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS FOR ALL CHAMBERLAIN'S APPEASEMENT. SCHMIDT IS RIGHT: THE NATURAL SOLIDARITY WITH LONDON CANNOT EXTEND TO EVERYTHING WHICH TAKES PLACE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, PARTICULARLY NOT TO THE COMMAND OF QUOTE FIRE UNQUOTE. FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK UKDEL NATO DUBLIN PARIS ROME LUXEMBOURG COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE UKREP BRUSSELS EMBASSY BRUSSELS ATHENS.  
TAYLOR [REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

FCO

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