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1) E.M.
2) file
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FOR CWG

ROUTINE 061132Z MAY 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK

SECRET

SIC A3A/A2N/19F

SECRET

DESKBY 061200Z

FM FCO 061132Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 922 OF 6 MAY

INFO MODUK

YOUR TELNO 1621: SATELLITE COVERAGE OF FALKLANDS

1. THE EXPERTS HERE HAVE REAFFIRMED THAT LANDSAT PHOTOGRAPHY COULD INDEED PROVIDE INFORMATION OF MILITARY VALUE TO ARGENTINA. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO OVEREMPHASISE THE RISK: THE FLEET WOULD ONLY SHOW UP IF CONDITIONS WERE IDEAL, WHICH IS UNLIKELY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, AND IF THERE WERE A SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION OF VESSELS. NEVERTHELESS, THE RISK IS THERE, AND IT IS NOT ONE WHICH WE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. PLEASE THEREFORE ACT AS SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF TUR, DRAWING AS NECESSARY ON THE ABOVE AND RE-EMPHASISING THE UNDESIRABILITY OF SENDING A POLITICAL SIGNAL OF THIS SORT TO THE ARGENTINES AT THIS CRITICAL STAGE. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT THAT, IF THE ARGENTINES DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN USEFUL MILITARY INFORMATION BY THIS MEANS, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PUT IN THE REQUEST FOR COVERAGE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

PYM

BT

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