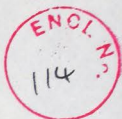


GRS 250
UNCLASSIFIED
FM PARIS 061740Z MAY 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 431 OF 06 MAY 1982
INFO ROUTINE BONN



MY TELNOS 426 AND 427: FALKLANDS: FRENCH REACTIONS

1. PRESS REPORTING OF YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT BY THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PUTS THE STRESS ON THE CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN EDITORIAL IN LE QUOTIDIEN (RIGHT-WING) THE PRESS GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE STATEMENT WHICH IT PRESENTS AS A STEP BACKWARDS IN FRENCH SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN, JUSTIFIED BY THE ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES. MOST PAPERS RENEW THEIR CALLS FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING. A COMMON THEME IS THAT BRITAIN NEEDS TO BE INDUCED OR HELPED TO CLIMB DOWN, AND THAT FRANCE MIGHT PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THAT RESPECT.

2. THE PRESS DOES NOT RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO SHOW A CERTAIN SATISFACTION AT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FRENCH WEAPONS USED BY THE ARGENTINES.

3. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT MITTERRAND AND SCHMIDT HAD A LONG TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE FALKLANDS ON 5 MAY. MY CALL ON MAUROY THIS MORNING (MY TEL NO 430) HAS BEEN REPORTED ON TV AND THE WIRE SERVICES WHICH STATE THAT MAUROY RE-AFFIRMED FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN IN THE FALKLANDS CRISIS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EUROPE, REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT FRANCE HAD VOTED FOR SCR 502: THAT PROGRESS APPEARED NOW TO BE BEING MADE TOWARDS A SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY REMAINED UNRESOLVED; AND THAT IT WAS FRANCE'S ARDENT DESIRE THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT SHOULD BE FOUND. THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IS REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE ELYSEE TODAY. THE ELYSEE HAVE TOLD US THAT THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ABOUT FALKLAND ISSUES AT THE REQUEST OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THAT BEREGOVYOV HAD OUTLINED THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE LINES OF YESTERDAY'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (MY TELNO 426).
FRETWELL

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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