

11

GRS 450  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FROM ROME 121300Z MAY 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 249 OF 12 MAY 82  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, BONN, PARIS  
INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS

ALQ 050 1598/1

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	FA	Action To

243

TOP COPY

FALKLAND ISLANDS: ITALIAN PRESS REACTIONS

1. THE TONE OF RECENT PRESS REPORTING HAS BEEN THAT BRITAIN IS TURNING THE MILITARY SCREW TIGHTER ON ARGENTINA AND BY SO DOING MAY BE ENDANGERING MEDIATION WHICH IS PROCEEDING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN. FOLLOWING THE EXTENSION OF THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE, A TYPICAL HEADLINE APPEARED IN REPUBBLICA (LEFTWING): "DEEP CONCERN OVER THE BRITISH ULTIMATUM". AFTER THE RENEWAL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY ON 9 MAY IL GIORNALE'S (RIGHTWING) HEADLINE READ: "BRITISH ON THE ATTACK", AND THIS AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS SAID THAT BRITAIN WAS BREAKING A DE FACTO TRUCE.
2. THE ARGENTINE TACTIC OF APPARENTLY DROPPING RECOGNITION OF ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS A PRECONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY THE HEADLINE WRITERS AS EVIDENCE OF ARGENTINE FLEXIBILITY ALTHOUGH CLOSER READING OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS SHOWS GREATER SCEPTICISM.
3. REPORTING OF THE MEETING BETWEEN SPADOLINI AND SCHMIDT IN HAMBURG SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A JOINT ITALIAN / GERMAN FRONT-POSSIBLY IN CONCERT WITH THE FRENCH - TO PUT PRESSURE ON BRITAIN TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE. MOST ARTICLES REPORT THAT THE ITALIAN AND GERMAN LEADERS CALLED FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 502, AT THE SAME TIME AGREEING THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE WITH A SIMULTANEOUS BEGINNING (SIC) OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM BOTH SIDES. BUT REPORTS ALSO REFER TO SCHMIDT'S EXPRESSION OF CONTINUED SOLIDARITY WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
4. REPORTING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AT VILLERS-LE-TEMPLE EMPHASISED THE MEETING'S REFUSAL TO ACCEDE TO THE BRITISH REQUEST AT THIS STAGE TO THE RENEWAL OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA ON 17 MAY. SOME PAPERS INCLUDING CORRIERE DELLA SERA (CENTRE) WERE PERPLEXED THAT BRITAIN WAS ASKING FOR COMPLETE COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BUT WAS AT THE SAME TIME TOTALLY UNWILLING TO SHOW SIMILAR SOLIDARITY IN COMPROMISING OVER THE BUDGET OR AGRICULTURAL PRICES.

/5.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MORE DIVIDED. A COMMENTATOR IN IL TEMPO (RIGHT OF CENTRE) SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO GALTIERI TO DEFUSE THE BOMB HE HAD PLACED, BUT ANOTHER COMMENTATOR IN THE NEXT DAY'S ISSUE OF THE SAME PAPER SAID THAT BRITAIN MIGHT BE PUTTING AT RISK THE FRIENDSHIP OF LATIN AMERICA WITH EUROPE WHICH WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. VERY HOSTILE COMMENT HAS COME FROM AVANTI (SOCIALIST) WHICH HAS EMPHASISED SOCIALIST OPPOSITION TO THE RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS. ITALY SHOULD HAVE A MEDIATING ROLE IN THE CURRENT CRISIS AND SUPPORTING SANCTIONS, ACCORDING TO AVANTI, IS INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ROLE.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES

SIMPSON-ORLEBAR

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
FALKLAND ISLANDS