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GROUPS 200
UNCLASSIFIED
FROM DUBLIN 241220Z MAY 1982.
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 163 OF 24 MAY.
AND TO PRIORITY INFO N I O BELFAST
INFO SAVING TO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS AND
OTHER EC POSTS.

FALKLANDS: IRISH MEDIA REACTIONS.

1. THERE IS A WIDE GULF BETWEEN THE MAIN DUBLIN DAILIES' VIEWS ON THE FALKLANDS CRISIS. THE (FIANNA FAIL) IRISH PRESS HAS BACKED THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO THE HILT: AND GONE FURTHER. ITS DENUNCIATION ON 19 MAY OF BRITISH "INTRANSIGENCE" RECALLED EDITORIALS OF THE HUNGER STRIKE PERIOD. THE IRISH TIMES HAS REGARDED SUPPORT FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT AS A DUTY. IN A SERIES OF NOTABLY INCOHERENT EDITORIALS IT HAS GENERALLY URGED BRITAIN TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IRRESPECTIVE OF ARGENTINE ATTITUDES. ON 24 MAY IT ARGUED THAT BRITAIN'S FRIENDS WOULD BE REASSURED BY HER "NOT EXPLOITING TO THE FULL ANY DECISIVE MILITARY ADVANTAGE OVER ARGENTINA WHICH MAY COME HER WAY."

2. BY CONTRAST THE (FINE GAEL) IRISH INDEPENDENT HAS SHOWN INCREASING APPRECIATION OF BRITAIN'S POSITION. THIS IS HEARTENING, IN ITSELF AND BECAUSE OF ITS WIDE CIRCULATION. AN EDITORIAL ON 22 MAY OPENED:

"BRITAIN HAS BEEN WELL SERVED IN THE LEADERSHIP SHE HAS HAD DURING THE COURSE OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS SO FAR: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE ANY OTHER POLITICIAN TO COMPARE WITH MARGARET THATCHER IN CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT AND COOL DETERMINATION AND IN SERVING BRITAIN SHE HAS SERVED THE INTERESTS OF THE FREE WORLD".

TODAY'S EDITORIAL SPEAKS OF THE LANDING AT PORT SAN CARLOS AS "A FEAT WHICH WILL GO DOWN IN THE ANNALS OF SOLDIERING."

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