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FALKLANDS - ARGENTINE INTERNAL POLITICS

The successful establishment of a bridgehead must have some effect on the Junta in political terms - both external and internal.

2. I think it would be of value to have as early as possible an assessment from the JIC of the political reaction - internally and also both in relation to their Armed Forces and to outside groups (Peronists etc). In short what is happening and what may happen?

3. There are, of course, wider dimensions such as the mood of the Argentine population and of other Latin American countries but an appreciation directed towards the Junta's possible next moves would be very helpful. There has been a tendency in some recent JIC reports (eg JIC(82)(IA)80) to put rather more weight on the views of non-military educated groups (eg diplomats) than seems realistic.

FRANK COOPER

24 May 1982

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