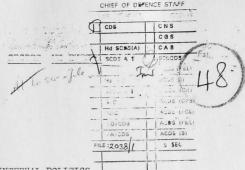
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## FALKLANDS - ARGENTINE INTERNAL POLITICS

You asked (1) that the JIC assess the reaction within Argentina of the Armed Forces, the various political factions, and the population in general, to the unfolding events in the Falkland Islands: and the probable effects on the leadership. You then asked what internal measures might be taken by the Junta to contain these developments.

- 2. The JIC has agreed that its response to this remit should be set against three separate British military milestones:
  - (a) The establishment of the bridgehead;
  - (b) The break-out;
  - (c) The surrender of the Argentinians.
- 7. The reaction to the establishment of the bridgehead is included in today's JIC Daily Assessment. The break-out will be addressed as soon as it occurs by which time a clearer picture should have energed of the internal Argentinian situation, particularly their resolve. These issues will again be examined when surrender becomes predictable. Should the picture clarify sufficiently the JIC will draw its judgements together into a single paper.
- 4. It might be useful if I put down one or two early markers. Firstly, despite our sources which are well known to you and to our ready access to the Argentinian media, there continues to be a shortage of reliable information on the political situation within Argentina; the FCO are pursuing this aspect by asking allies for information from their posts. The second point is that we believe the Junta, itself is not accurately informed of Argentinian losses by subordinate Commanders; thus from the top downwards there is a considerable inbuilt element of disinformation despite the fact that the Times and other reputable newspapers continue to be readily available in Buenos Aires. However, there are signs of growing unease as the true facts start to filter through.

25th May 1932

(1) PUS/82/594 of 24 May 82 - ATT - FC 1615

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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(82XIA)80) to put rather more weight on the views of non-military educated groups (eg diplomats) than seems realistic.

PRANK COOR

FRANK COOPER 24 May 1982