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24963 PRDRME G
817725 BASCAM G

BAS/322/82

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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

TO EMERGENCY ROOM,
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

FOR MR R FEARN
FROM DR R M LAWS

GIST OF RADIO CONVERSATION WITH BRANSFIELD 1205 HRS. AS
FOLLOWS:

MONITORING FALKLAND ISLAND BROADCASTS REVEALED THAT THERE ARE
THREE WARSHIPS IN PORT WILLIAM AND INTENSIVE HELICOPTER
MOVEMENTS. ARMED TROOP CARRIERS HAVE SURROUNDED GOVERNMENT
HOUSE. 200 TROOPS ARE INVOLVED. THERE ARE NO CASUALTIES.
A STATEMENT IS AWAITED FROM THE GOVERNOR. ARGENTINE FORCES
ARE TRYING TO CONTACT THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE FALKLAND
ISLANDS BUT HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED.

I SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT VOICE CONTACT WAS FAINT, BUT I CONFIRMED
THESE POINTS BY REPETITION.

BRANSFIELD IS PROCEEDING EASTWARDS BETWEEN FALKLANDS AND STATEN
ISLAND SO AS TO LEAVE ARGENTINE WATERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SHE WILL THEN HEAD SOUTH TO FARADAY. AM ENDEAVOURING TO MAKE
CONTACT WITH BRANSFIELD VIA PORTISHEAD RADIO AND IF SUCCESSFUL
AT HALF-HOURLY INTERVALS AS LONG AS THERE IS INFORMATION TO BE
REPORTED.

SIGNAL RECEIVED FROM ENDURANCE INFORMS ME THAT ARGENTINES INTEND
ARMED LANDING GRYPVIKEN 1300 TODAY (LOCAL). ROYAL MARINES
ARE TO DEFEND THE BASE AND MAY OPEN FIRE WHEN IT IS CONFIRMED
THAT ARGENTINES ARE ARMED.

I AM PASSING INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE TO MOD AND
YOURSELVES.

ENDS

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY, CAMBRIDGE.

RML/DLC

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