

GRS 130

UNCLASSIFIED

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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 290 OF 21 MAY

FALKLANDS: SPANISH PRESS COVERAGE

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT AND HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE HAVE BEEN REPORTED FACTUALLY TOGETHER WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE WHITE PAPER OUTLINING BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT. ALL THE MAJOR PAPERS HEADLINE THE RISK OF AN IMMINENT BRITISH ATTACK. BOTH SIDES IN THE CONFLICT ARE SAID TO BE ACCUSING EACH OTHER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BREAK-DOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS. ONLY ABC CARRIES AN EDITORIAL WHICH PUTS SOME BLAME FOR THE SITUATION ON BOTH SIDES, BUT CONTRASTS THE DEMOCRATIC AND FLEXIBLE BRITISH ATTITUDE WITH THE ORIGINAL AGGRESSION AND THE IRRESPONSIBLE BELLICOSE ATTITUDE OF GALTIERI. IT RECOMMENDS THAT DESPITE ITS TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA, SPAIN SHOULD REMEMBER ITS EUROPEAN VOCATION AND ANALYSE COOLLY THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINA.

2. SPANISH TELEVISION CARRIED ON THE MAIN NEWS PROGRAMME LAST NIGHT AN EXCELLENT INTERVIEW WITH MR GAREL-JONES IN WHICH HE WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN VERY CLEARLY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CASE TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SPANISH AUDIENCE. THIS WILL HAVE HELPED TO BALANCE THE ANTI-BRITISH BIAS OF MUCH OF TV REPORTING. RADIO REPORTING HAS BEEN MORE GENERALLY IMPARTIAL.

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