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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03249 01 OF 02 222119Z
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00
H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 HA-06
L-03 PM-09 PA-01 CCO-00 INRE-00 OCS-06 SAL-01
BIB-01 CA-01 ANAE-00 ICAE-00 SYE-00 SP-02 OC-06
SPRS-02 /109 W

-----245575 222126Z /60

RELEASE IN FULL

O 222004Z MAY 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3872
INFO SOUTH ATLANTIC SITREP COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS 02
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PANAMA
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
DIA WASHDC JSI-4A/JSI-4B/DB-3B/DB-3E/DC-4A

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Theodore Sellin, Senior
Reviewer**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 3249

CINCSO FOR INTAFF

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

ROME FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, UK, AR, FA
SUBJECT: SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS: SITREP AS OF 1500 HOURS, MAY 22
1982

1. SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF HOSTILITIES ACCENTS THE
POSITIVE FROM ARGENTINE PERSPECTIVE. PRESS SEES LITTLE
HOPE THAT NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, WHETHER UN, OAS
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03249 01 OF 02 222119Z

OR PERUVIAN, WILL DEVELOP INTO ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC
TRIUMPHS OR ANOTHER ROUND OF PEACE TALKS SOON. U.S.
MILITARY SUPPORT FOR GREAT BRITAIN CONTINUES TO BE A
MAJOR TOPIC OF PRESS COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY. PRES-
TIGIOUS FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMY CRITICIZES GOA
SECRETIVENESS ABOUT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND SAYS INVASION
WAS VIOLATION OF UN CHARTER. END SUMMARY.

THE HOSTILITIES

2. NEWS OF YESTERDAY'S HOSTILITIES NATURALLY DOMINATES ALL DAILIES, WITH SLANT THAT ARGENTINA FARED MUCH BETTER THAN UK, ALTHOUGH QUALITIES GIVE BOTH GOA AND HMG ACCOUNTS OF THE ENGAGEMENTS AND LOSSES. THE GOA HAS THUS FAR ACKNOWLEDGED LOSING SIX FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT AND THREE HELICOPTERS. AIR FORCE CINC LAMI DOZO ANNOUNCED AFTER THE ENGAGEMENTS THAT "OUR AIR FORCE MAINTAINS ITS POTENTIAL INTACT." ONE COMMENTATOR SUGGESTS THAT TASK FORCE IS NOW READYING ITSELF FOR AN IMMINENT, ALL-OUT ASSAULT TO RECAPTURE THE ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO, NOTING THAT THE BRITISH DID EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY HAD "LEAKED" TO THE PRESS, I.E., A WAR OF ATTRITION. THE ADVANTAGE TO ESTABLISHING A LARGE PRESENCE ON LAND AND GOING FOR A QUICK KILL, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTATOR, IS THAT THE TASK FORCE PROBABLY CAN PUT ASHORE EQUIVALENT LAND-BASED, FIRE-POWER TO THAT OF THE ARGENTINES ALREADY THERE AND THEREBY ALLOW MOST OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIPS TO WITHDRAW OUTSIDE RANGE OF THE CONTINENTAL-BASED ARGENTINE AIR FORCE.

DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

3. HEAVY PLAY OF GOA OFFICIALS' DENUNCIATION OF UK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 03249 01 OF 02 222119Z

AGRESSION AND YESTERDAY'S UNSC MEETING. CONSIDERABLE COMMENTARY ON PRESUMPTION THAT UK (AND POSSIBLY U.S. AND FRANCE) WOULD VETO ANY CEASE FIRE OR PRO-ARGENTINE RESOLUTION. "CHARIN" STAFF WRITER CARDOSO SAYS UK MIGHT CONSIDER A CEASE FIRE ONCE IT HAS ESTABLISHED A STRONG MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE ISLANDS. HE ALSO CLAIMS, WITHOUT FURTHER EXPLANATION OR SPECULATION, THAT ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY THE SOVIET PERM REP HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO TRY TO AVOID ANY RESOLUTION WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE A VETO. NO CLEAR PICTURE ON ARGENTINE INTENTIONS REGARDING THE RIO TREATY, BUT ONE "CLARIN" WRITER THINKS GOA WILL HOLD IN ABEYANCE CONVOKING THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION UNTIL OUTCOME OF UNSC ACTIVITY IS MORE CLEAR. COVERAGE OF PERUVIAN INITIATIVE EMPHASIZES GOA ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE WHILE SLAMMING UK FOR SETTING PRE-CONDITION (I.E., ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS) FOR A CEASEFIRE.

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03249 02 OF 02 222128Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 3249

THE U.S. ROLE

4. WE ARE AGAIN THE OBJECT OF HEAVY COVERAGE AND
CRITICISM. ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TAKACS' CALL ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ENDERS TO MANIFEST GOA CONCERN ABOUT THE
AMOUNT AND TYPE OF SUPPORT WE MIGHT PROVIDE TO THE
BRITISH IS REPORTED TOGETHER WITH REPRINTS OF EXCERPTS

FROM A NY TIMES ARTICLE CLAIMING THAT WE ARE PROVIDING MISSILES, RADAR AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR A "PROTRACTED WAR." MINISTRY OF ECONOMY ALEMANN'S ASSERTION THAT THE USG IS DIVIDED OVER THE FALKLANDS' AFFAIR, WHICH HAS RECEIVED HEAVY PLAY HERE, IS BEGINNING TO TAKE ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN. "LA NACION" IN AN EDITORIAL -- THRUST OF WHICH IS TO PLEA FOR A RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03249 02 OF 02 222128Z

TABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE -- SAYS THAT HAIG'S ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH VERSUS THE PENTAGON AND TREASURY DEPARTMENT ARE WELCOME SIGNS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, ALONG WITH THE EROSION OF SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN IN EUROPE, WHEN PEACE TALKS COMMENCE AGAIN.

5. THE THEME THREADING THROUGH THE "LA NACION" EDITORIAL AND THE VIEWS OF NUMEROUS OTHERS -- THAT THE U.S., IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IS THE KEY TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT -- IS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF A PIECE BY IGLESIAS ROUCO OF "LA PRENSA." ACCORDING TO ROUCO "IF THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO CONCILIATE ITS GLOBAL STRATEGY WITH THE MINIMUM ASPIRATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA... SOONER OR LATER A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT WOULD BE FOUND AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE." HOWEVER, REPEATING HIS EARLIER THESIS ROUCO SAYS THAT THE US IS STILL BENT ON OBTAINING A MILITARY BASE ON THE ISLANDS AND ACCESS TO FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE DRAKE PASSAGE. THUS, WASHINGTON SUPPORTS BRITISH RECAPTURE OF THE ISLANDS AND THEIR EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE TOGETHER WITH RESOLUTION OF THE BEAGLE DISPUTE ALONG THE LINES OF THE POPE'S DECEMBER 12, 1981 PROPOSAL. ROUCO ALSO REPEATS THE ALLEGATION THAT THE US WAS AWARE OF THE GOA INTENT TO INVADE THE FALKLANDS LONG BEFOREHAND.

6. MEANWHILE, FORMER CONSERVATIVE ECONOMY MINISTER ALVARO ALSOGARAY IS THE FIRST PERSON OF STATURE IN RECENT WEEKS TO BE SOFT ON US. IN A DEBATE WITH PERONIST LEADER ANGEL FEDERICO ROBLEDO, WHEN THE SUBJECT OF THE US ROLE AROSE, ALSOGARAY SAID "THE UNITED STATES HAS A LARGE DOSE OF GOOD FAITH AND ONE SHOULD BE TOO HARD ON SECRETARY HAIG." THE COURAGEOUS ALSOGARAY ALSO SAID THAT "HE WOULD NEVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 03249 02 OF 02 222128Z

HAVE LAUNCHED THE MILITARY OPERATION TO RECAPTURE THE ISLANDS BECAUSE IT WAS A VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER THAT WE SIGNED AND HAVE NOT COMPLIED WITH." ROBLEDO, FOR HIS PART, SAID "THE MOMENT (FOR THE

INVASION) WAS NOT THE MOST OPPORTUNE."

DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS DEMANDED

7. ALSOGARAY HAS ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO SHARE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEACE TALKS. HE INFERS THAT THE GOA DELIBERATELY KEPT SECRET THE FACT THAT GREAT BRITAIN WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT UN ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLANDS, ADDING THAT IF THIS WERE KNOWN EARLIER "THE POSITION OF MANY OF US, WHO GAVE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD HAVE BEEN ALTERED." HE CONCLUDES THAT THE GOA NO LONGER HAS "A BLANK CHECK; PUBLIC OPINION NEEDS TO BE INFORMED AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT"...WHEN NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE AGAIN AFTER THE CURRENT ROUND OF HOSTILITIES. SHLAUDEMANN

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