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SIR FRANK COOPER GCB CMG

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Hidden copy to:  
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AUS(D Staff)

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26 May 1982

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*Jim C.*

FALKLANDS: ARGENTINE INTERNAL POLITICS

As you may have heard, we have asked the JIC to assess the effect on the Junta - and on Argentine popular and political opinion - of their military reverses and the establishment of a bridgehead in the Falklands.

2. One early comment I have received from the DIS suggests that the Junta itself may not be accurately informed about Argentine losses by its subordinate Commanders and there may be some internal self-deception going on. The facts are, of course, appearing more or less correctly in British newspapers which are available in Buenos Aires. Given the Junta's attitude to their own Press, it seems unlikely that they will believe what they read in ours.
3. I should be grateful if you could consider urgently how to get the correct information into the hands of senior Argentine military figures - and, if possible, a broader range of influential opinion in the country - in a form that they would find convincing. I would emphasise correct: the position is such that there is no need in my view to exaggerate their losses or understate ours. The sort of thing I have in mind is a 'leak' of a highly classified US report, but no doubt your people will know of other possible approaches.
4. A copy goes to Gus Halliday and Patrick Wright.

*Yours man  
Frank Cooper*

FRANK COOPER