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PRIORITY 281725Z MAY 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
CINCFLEET

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FM PARIS 281725Z MAY 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 559 OF 28 MAY 1982

YOUR TELNO 131: FALKLANDS: COMMUNITY BRIEFING

1. THE QUAI HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME SHOWN THE EMBASSY REPORTS FROM THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES. WE HAVE REPORTED SOME BUT THE REST HAVE LARGELY CONSISTED OF DIGESTS OF ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS. ON 27 MAY FOUQUET SHOWED HEAD OF CHANCERY A TELEGRAM FROM THE AMBASSADOR PURPORTING TO ANALYSE ARGENTINE REACTIONS TO BRITISH MILITARY ACTION IN THE FALKLANDS. HE CONCLUDED THAT ARGENTINES MIGHT BE DEFEATED BUT WOULD NOT AGREE TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ON BRITISH TERMS AND THAT THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE A LONG PERIOD OF NO WAR BUT NO PROPER PEACE RATHER AS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL.

2. FOUQUET TOLD ARBUTHNOTT ON 28 MAY THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD SENT NO DETAILED REPORTS ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WHETHER POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THERE WAS SIMPLY NO WAY OF OBTAINING ANY WORTH WHILE INFORMATION GIVEN THE CLOSED NATURE OF GOVERNMENT BY MILITARY JUNTA. IN FACT, WE HAVE HEARD FROM ANOTHER SOURCE IN THE QUAI THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S REPORTING IS JUDGED BY THE QUAI TO BE INADEQUATE.

FRETWELL
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