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TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 277 OF 4 JUNE
INFO PRIORITY MOD(FOR DMSI)

NY TELEGRAM NUMBER 272 : CHILE/ARGENTINA

1. EDITORIALS IN TODAY'S PRESS (PROBABLY INSPIRED) POINT TO CHILEAN OFFER OF PORT FACILITIES ETC TO ARGENTINA AS EVIDENCE OF CHILE'S UNDERLYING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE. LA TERCERA JUSTIFIES IT AS CHILE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLLECTIVE LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT CALLED FOR IN THE LATEST TIAR RESOLUTION. EL MERCURIO WARNS THAT THE QUOTE RECTIFICATION OF AN ABUSE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IS ONE THING BUT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER FOR A NATION IMPRUDENTLY PLUNGED BY ITS RULERS INTO A MILITARY ADVENTURE TO BE HUMILIATED AND MADE TO SUFFER FOR YEARS THE EFFECTS OF SUCH AN ADVENTURE UNQUOTE.
2. THESE ARE NEW NOTES IN THE CHILEAN MEDIAS COVERAGE OF THE CRISIS AND BESIDES OFFERING ARGENTINES A LITTLE MORE PLAUSIBLE EVIDENCE OF CHILEAN GOODWILL (WHICH COSTS THEM NOTHING) MAY ALSO REFLECT CONCERN IN SOME QUARTERS THAT TOO DRAMATIC A DEFEAT FOR ARGENTINA MIGHT NOT BE IN CHILE'S BEST LONG-TERM INTEREST.

HEATH

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