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TO IMMEDIAT FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 179 OF 27 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK

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FALKLANDS: PRESS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CHILEAN/UK MILITARY COOPERATION

1. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED TODAY BY A NUMBER OF REPORTERS, INCLUDING THE BBC FROM PUNTA ARENAS, FOR COMMENTS ON A STORY ALLEGEDLY PRINTED IN THE QUOTE DAILY STAR UNQUOTE WHICH TALK OF A SECRET ANGLO/CHILEAN DEAL UNDER WHICH PUNTA ARENAS WOULD BE USED BY RAF VULCANS IN RETURN FOR SALES OF RAF HUNTERS TO THE CHILEAN AIR FORCE. WE HAVE AVOIDED COMMENT AND REFERRED ENQUIRIES TO THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES.
2. THE QUOTE DAILY STAR UNQUOTE WAS THE SOURCE OF AN EARLIER CANARD ABOUT UK/CHILEAN MILITARY COOPERATION (SEE MY TELNO 78), AND IT OCCURS TO ME THAT THEIR CORRESPONDENT WHOEVER HE IS MAY BE BEING FED WITH ARGENTINE DISINFORMATION FROM TIME TO TIME SO AS TO TARNISH THE CURRENT CHILEAN NEUTRAL STANCE, AND PERHAPS TRY TO STRAIN CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY UNITY ON FALKLANDS ISSUE. NO DOUBT YOU WILL WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER A WORD ON THIS IN THE RIGHT PLACE MIGHT DISCOURAGE SIMILAR TROUBLE MAKING.

HEATH

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