

SECRET

UK EYES ALFA

FM WASHINGTON 281730Z APR 82

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TELEGRAM NUMBER U/N OF 28 APRIL.

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IMMEDIATE

PSE PASS FOLLOWING TO MODUK AND CABINET OFFICE.

O 281730Z APR 82

FM BDS WASHINGTON

TO MODUK

INFO CABINET OFFICE
BT

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SIC AAA/UAJ

389

UK CLASSIFIED

FOR DIC ATTN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CELL, FROM BDILS(W). INFO FOR THE ASSESSMENTS STAFF. MY AAA/UAJ 272100Z APR CONNECTS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE COVERT ATTACK ON ASCENSION ISLAND AIRFIELD FACILITIES

1. FURTHER PRESSING OF USAF INT SOURCES ON SUBJECT MATTER HAS REVEALED THAT THE POSSIBLE COVERT ATTACK ON ASCENSION ISLAND FACILITIES REPORTED YESTERDAY IS NOT BASED ON TANGIBLE HARD INTELLIGENCE BUT IS RATHER THE ANALYTICAL JUDGEMENT OF THE ANALYST CONCERNED. HE BASES HIS JUDGEMENT ON A LONG TERM FAMILIARITY WITH ARGENTINE PSYCHOLOGY, THE FANATICISM OF CERTAIN PARTS OF THE ARGENTINIAN FORCES AND THE ASSESSED DESPERATE NEED FOR A QUOTE PROPAGANDA VICTORY UNQUOTE. HIS ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE ASCENSION ISLAND FACILITIES OFFERS A SOFT OPTION, EASILY ACHIEVED, BUT ONE WITH CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA MILEAGE EVEN IF THE DAMAGE WERE ONLY TOKEN. THE TASK MIGHT BE MADE MORE EASY WITH CURRENT ATTENTION KEENLY FOCUSED ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

2. HD BDILS(W) HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH DIA WHO CONCUR THAT SOME THREAT MIGHT EXIST BUT HAVE NO HARD INTELLIGENCE TO BACK THIS JUDGEMENT

3. IN SUMMARY, NO HARD INTELLIGENCE IS HELD BY THE U.S. TO SUPPORT THE POSSIBILITY OF COVERT ATTACK ON ASCENSION ISLAND FACILITIES NEVERTHELESS EXPERIENCED ANALYSTS IN SOUTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS ARE AGREED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A COVERT ATTACK SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT. PARA 8 OF JICTEL NO 151 FALKLANDS MIGHT ALSO BE SEEN AS ADDING SOME WEIGHT TO THIS POSSIBILITY

BT

HENDERSON

FOR TYPISTS - IKEROK

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