

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

2  
(30)

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE

**IMMEDIATE**

**ADVANCE COPY**

ED/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
ED/DEF D  
ED/NEWS D  
ED/UND  
ED/PLANNING STAFF  
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60  
RESIDENT CLERK

HD/WED

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST  
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
PS/CHANCELLOR )  
SIR K COUZENS )  
MR LITTLER )  
MR HAWTIN ) TREASURY  
MR PERETZ )  
MR ILETT )  
MR McINTYRE )

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO " "

SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE  
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

GRS 300

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BONN 291430Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 384 OF 29 APRIL

INFO ROUTINE PARIS ROME

YOUR TEL NO 175 TO PARIS: GERMAN REPORTING ON ARGENTINA

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF GERMAN REPORTING SENT FROM BUENOS AIRES YESTERDAY:

A. WHILE GALTIERI IS SIGNALLING READINESS TO NEGOTIATE THROUGH COSTA MENDES, THE ARMED FORCES ARE TAKING STEPS TO COUNTER A BRITISH INVASION OF THE FALKLANDS, WHICH IS WIDELY BELIEVED IN BUENOS AIRES TO BE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE VERY SHORTLY. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT THE FALKLANDS WERE WITHIN THE OPERATING RANGE OF THE ARGENTINE AIRFORCE.

B. THE GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHE HAD BEEN TOLD DURING A CALL ON THE ARGENTINE NAVAL HEADQUARTERS THAT THE BRITISH RECOVERY OF SOUTH GEORGIA HAD TAKEN BUENOS AIRES BY SURPRISE: THE NAVY HAD NOT EXPECTED BRITAIN TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION SO SOON. THE MILITARY ATTACHE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY WAS BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT HAIG'S NEUTRALITY AND THE RELIABILITY OF US MEDIATION.



DOUBTS ABOUT HAIG'S NEUTRALITY AND THE RELIABILITY OF US MEDIATION. THEY SUSPECTED THAT THE US HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE INTENDED RECOVERY OF SOUTH GEORGIA, AND HAD CONDONED IT.

C. NEWSPAPERS IN ARGENTINA REPORTED PROMINENTLY A STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES THAT THE ACTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN WERE UNACCEPTABLE, AND ALSO THE ENERGETIC CONDEMNATION OF GREAT BRITAIN BY CUBA. THE LOSS OF SOUTH GEORGIA HAD BEEN GIVEN MINIMAL COVERAGE ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF NEWSPAPERS, AND ON 28 APRIL THE ARGENTINE PRESS WAS STILL CLAIMING THAT THERE WAS FIGHTING ON THE ISLAND.

D. THE MASS DEMONSTRATION OF TRADE UNIONISTS IN BUENOS AIRES ON 27 APRIL HAD GIVEN THE JUNTA STRONG BACKING FOR ITS SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM, BUT HAD ALSO HAD A STRONG PERONIST FLAVOUR. A TYPICAL SLOGAN WAS QUOTE THE MALVINAS BELONG TO ARGENTINA. THE PEOPLE BELONG TO PERON UNQUOTE. THE GERMAN EMBASSY BELIEVE THAT THE PERONISTS WILL MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO EXPLOIT THE CRISIS AND THE SURGE OF NATIONALIST FEELING TO THEIR OWN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE.

TAYLOR

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SENT AT C291458Z LCD

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