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**ABR022030Z – JIC A WASHINGTON, ANALISIS DE INTELIGENCIA (fco 7/4490)**

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FROM: SECRETARY JIC

THE FOLLOWING IS AN IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT/JIC(82)(1A)11  
PREPARED BY THE LATIN AMERICA CURRENT INTELLIGENCE GROUP AT THEIR  
MEETING WHICH ENDED AT 3.30 PM ON FRIDAY 2 APRIL  
REACTION TO ARGENTINE INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS  
(SECRET - UK EYES ALFA)

(UNITED KINGDOM CLASSIFIED)

1. THE ARGENTINE JUNTA HAS CONFIRMED THAT ITS FORCES  
HAVE LANDED AT PORT STANLEY IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.  
WE ASSESS LIKELY REACTIONS BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND  
INTERNALLY, AND WHICH COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO GIVE THE  
UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT.  
UNITED STATES.

2. WHEN THE INVASION SEEMED IMMINENT, PRESIDENT REAGAN  
SPOKE PERSONALLY TO THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT IN ORDER  
TO PERSUADE THE ARGENTINE JUNTA NOT TO USE FORCE. HE  
WAS REBUFFED. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES NEVERTHELESS  
TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR EXERTING PRESSURE  
ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, BY VIRTUE BOTH OF LIKELY  
JUNTA CONCERN TO RETAIN UNITED STATES GOOD WILL AND  
OF THE HEAVY ARGENTINE INDEBTEDNESS TO UNITED STATES  
BANKS. (ANY ACTION BY UNITED STATES BANKS TO CALL  
IN DEBTS COULD CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY).  
LATIN AMERICA.

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CHILE WILL INSTINCTIVELY TEND TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH CASE IN ANY DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA. IT WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARGENTINE INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR ITS DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL AND WILL GIVE FIRM SUPPORT TO ANY DIPLOMATIC CENSURE OF ARGENTINA. IT MAY ALSO FEEL OBLIGED TO DEPLOY NAVAL AND OTHER MILITARY FORCES ON ITS BORDERS WITH ARGENTINA IN ORDER TO ASSUAGE CHILEAN PUBLIC OPINION. IT COULD CONCEIVABLY SEE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, WITH THE ARGENTINE NAVY DEPLOYED AGAINST THE FALKLANDS, AN OPPORTUNITY TO OCCUPY THE THREE DISPUTED ISLANDS IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL. BUT DESPITE INFORMAL INDICATIONS OF SYMPATHY BY THE CHILEAN NAVY, WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO PROVIDE PORT OR AIRFIELD FACILITIES FOR A BRITISH MILITARY BUILD-UP AGAINST ARGENTINA. TO DO SO WOULD INEVITABLY HEIGHTEN TENSION BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA AT A TIME WHEN THE LATTER IS MILITARILY MUCH THE STRONGER.

4. THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ANXIOUS THAT THE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHOULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. BRAZIL HAS TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED ARGENTINA IN ITS CLAIM TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BUT WILL NOT APPROVE OF THE USE OF FORCE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO BE VERY CONSCIOUS THAT ARGENTINA HAS USED INTIMIDATORY TACTICS AGAINST CHILE OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE. THUS, GIVEN BRAZIL'S TRADITIONAL SUSPICIONS OF ARGENTINA, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO ACCORD IT MUCH SYMPATHY, AND MIGHT WELL BE PREPARED TO EXPRESS ITS DISQUIET PRIVATELY TO THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT. BUT WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD GO SO FAR AS OFFERING ANY FACILITIES TO BRITISH NAVAL SHIPS OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT PARTICULARLY IF THEY BELIEVED THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT INTENDED MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA.

5. URUGUAY HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH IT HAS GIVEN PORT FACILITIES TO SOME BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS AND ALLOWED THE ROULEMENT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ROYAL MARINE DETACHMENT THROUGH MONTEVIDEO, AS THE CRISIS HAS MOUNTED IT HAS ADOPTED A MORE NEUTRAL STANCE. IT IS UNLIKELY TO ALLOW THESE FACILITIES TO BE USED BY BRITAIN IN PURSUIT OF MILITARY

ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE IT WILL NOT OPPOSE ANY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, AND AT WORST WOULD DO NO MORE THAN ABSTAIN IN ANY VOTE.

6. AMONGST THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA PARAGUAY HAS SHOWN SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM'S POSITION AND MIGHT GRANT OVER-FLYING RIGHTS FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT. BOLIVIA AND PERU HAVE ADOPTED THE TRADITIONAL STANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, CLAIMING THAT BORDER DISPUTES SHOULD BE SETTLED BY MEDIATION AND NOT FORCE. HOWEVER IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THEY WOULD GRANT OVER-FLYING RIGHTS TO BRITISH MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

7. WITHIN THE OAS APART FROM THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN IS MOST LIKELY TO COME FROM COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, CHILE, MEXICO AND PERU.

OTHER GROUPS.

8. EC COUNTRIES ARE IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS FOR ARGENTINA. THE TEN ARE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE UNITED KINGDOM DIPLOMATICALLY AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CO-ORDINATE ANY EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA. OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE OLD COMMONWEALTH ARE LIKELY TO GIVE DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. THERE ARE GOOD CHANCES THAT, ESPECIALLY WITH UNITED STATES LOBBYING ASSISTANCE, THE OAU COUNTRIES CURRENTLY REPRESENTED ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL (ZAIRE, UGANDA AND TOGO) COULD BE PERSUADED TO SUPPORT THE UNITED KINGDOM, DESPITE THEIR GENERAL ANTI-COLONIALIST SENTIMENTS. THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES ARE LIKELY TO STAND BACK FROM THE DISPUTE, AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS (SEE JIC(82)(1A) 10, ISSUED SEPARATELY).

INTERNAL REACTIONS IN ARGENTINA.

9. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS IN ARGENTINA ON 30 MARCH AGAINST STRINGENT ECONOMIC MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE JUNTA, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ARGENTINE POPULATION WILL BE SOLIDLY BEHIND THE JUNTA OVER THEIR ACTION IN INVADING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. THE ARGENTINE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, WHICH ORGANISED THE RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS, IS UNLIKELY TO ENCOURAGE ACTION WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS PREJUDICING NATIONAL INTERESTS.

10. THE RISK OF ACTION AGAINST THE LARGE BRITISH

COMMUNITY (17,000 UNITED KINGDOM PASSPORT HOLDERS) AND BUSINESS INTERESTS (DOLLARS 200 MILLION INVESTMENTS) IS AT PRESENT SMALL, GIVEN THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BUT THE RISK WILL INCREASE IF A UNITED KINGDOM NAVAL TASK FORCE IS DESPATCHED. THERE IS LITTLE THE UNITED KINGDOM ACTING ALONE COULD DO BY WAY OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA. THE TRADE BALANCE IS IN OUR FAVOUR (EXPORTS C POUNDS STERLING 160 MILLION, IMPORTS POUNDS STERLING 110 MILLION) AND THE CITY IS HEAVILY EXPOSED (LOANS BY UNITED KINGDOM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO ARGENTINA TOTAL SOME POUNDS STERLING 1.5 BILLION).

CONCLUSION.

11. THERE IS LIKELY TO BE WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL CON- DEMNATION OF THE ARGENTINE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, EVEN AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED THE ARGENTINE CLAIM ON ANTI-COLONIALIST GROUNDS. WE JUDGE THAT BRITAIN WILL RECEIVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

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