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[TYPISTS]

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RESIDENT CLERK

W. J. Seb!

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PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
PS/CHANCELLOR)
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MR HAVIN) TREASURY
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MR ILETT)
MR McINTYRE)

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EX
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GRS 130
UNCLASSIFIED
FM MADRID 011430Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 234 OF 1 MAY
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT
FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON PORT STANLEY AIRPORT.

1. THE BRITISH AIR ATTACK ON PORT STANLEY CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS ESCALATION IN THE CONFLICT.
2. THE POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF A MORE GENERALISED AND MASSIVE BRITISH ACTION IN THE ARCHIPELAGO WOULD MEAN A TRAGIC LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES AND WOULD SIGNIFY GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND A HISTORIC ERROR.
3. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT HAS LET ITS POSITION BE CLEARLY KNOWN: IT IS ABSOLUTELY CONTRARY TO THE USE OF FORCE, A POSITION WHICH IT NOW REAFFIRMS: ON THE OTHER HAND IT DEPLORES THE FACT THAT INSPITE OF ITS EFFORTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORA AND IN BILATERAL CONTACTS NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE FUNDAMENTAL COLONIAL PROBLEM WHICH IS THE ORIGIN OF THE CONFLICT AND ON WHICH SPAIN HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S TRADITIONAL POSITION, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DOCTRINE OF THE UNITED NATIONS.
4. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS STATED TO THE ARGENTINE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND ALSO TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE NECESSITY OF THE FULL USE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MECHANISMS TO AVOID ANY FURTHER NEW BELIGEROSE ACTION.

PARSONS

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 01/1449Z PJ/LRD