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Se refiere a:

03MAY82 0830Z – FCO a Del NATO. Informe de prensa de Nott sobre el ataque al Belgrano.

(FCO 7/4522) (desclasificado DIC 2012)

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DESKBY 030730Z UKDEL NATO

FM FCO 030830Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 143 OF 3 MAY

AND TO IMMEDIATE BERNE (FOR BISBA), UKMIS GENEVA, EC POSTS, BRASILIA, SANTIAGO ,LA PAZ, ASUNCION, LIMA, QUITO, BOGOTA, CARACAS, PANAMA CITY, MEXICO CITY AND CERTAIN OTHER POSTS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE

1. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE.

'AT APPROXIMATELY 8 P.M. LONDON TIME THIS EVENING THE ARGENTINE CRUISER GENERAL BELGRANO WAS HIT BY TORPEDOES FIRED FROM A BRITISH SUBMARINE. THE CRUISER IS BELIEVED TO BE SEVERELY DAMAGED.

'ON FRIDAY, 23 APRIL, HMG WARNED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT ANY APPROACH ON THE PART OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS, INCLUDING SUBMARINES, NAVAL AUXILIARIES OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO A THREAT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WOULD ENCOUNTER THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. THE CRUISER POSED A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE BRITISH TASK FORCE MAINTAINING THE TEZ. THE ACTION TAKEN WAS FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER BASED ON THE INHERENT RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER. THE BRITISH SUBMARINE SUFFERED NO DAMAGE IN THE ENGAGEMENT AND HAS RESUMED HER PATROL. FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ENGAGEMENT WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS WE HAVE THEM.'

2. SEE MIFT.

PYM

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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