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**Se refiere a:**

**04MAY82 1335Z – UKE Dublin a FCO. Postura de Irlanda.**

(PREM 19/624) (desclasificado DIC 2012)

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TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30X31)

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

ADVANCE COPY

FLASH

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

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

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

GRPS 300

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FM DUBLIN 041335Z MAY 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 125 OF 04 MAY 1982

AND REPEATED FOR INFO TO FLASH BRUSSELS (FOR BULLARD), WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK.

IMMEDIATE TO PARIS, BONN, COPENHAGEN, ATHENS, LUXEMBOURG, ROME THE HAGUE AND UKREP BRUSSEL (ALL INFO)S

M. I. P. T.

FALKLANDS: IRISH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

1. THE NEWS OF THE SINKING OF THE BELGRANO WITH POSSIBLE LARGE LOSS OF LIFE HAS BEEN VERY CRITICALLY RECEIVED IN THE REPUBLIC. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A FURTHER STATEMENT (TEXT IN MIPT). EARLIER THIS MORNING I ASKED TO SEE THE TAOISEACH AND WAS ABLE TO HAVE A QUARTER OF A HOUR WITH HIM JUST BEFORE HIS LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT REDDY. HE READ ME THE STATEMENT WHICH HAD JUST BEEN DRAFTED IN A CABINET MEETING. I SAID THAT WHILE I UNDERSTOOD THAT

DRAFTED IN A CABINET MEETING. I SAID THAT WHILE I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO SAY SOMETHING, I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BELGRANO HAD BEEN VIEWED AS A THREAT TO OUR FORCES IN THE AREA. ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN OUTSIDE THE EXCLUSION ZONE WE HAD AGAIN MADE IT CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ON 23 APRIL THAT EACH MEASURE ANNOUNCED WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF THE UK TO TAKE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL MEASURES MIGHT BE NEEDED IN EXERCISE OF OUR RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENCE. I ALSO SAID THAT WE WERE AS ANXIOUS AS EVER TO MAKE SOME ADVANCE ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT AND THAT I MUST SAY QUITE FRANKLY THAT EFFORTS BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO ACTIVATE THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD, AT THIS STAGE, BE MOST UNHELPFUL. IT WOULD DO NO ONE ANY GOOD TO HAVE AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE WITH THE COUNCIL FAILING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION. THAT WOULD NOT BRING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION NEARER (I.E. PARAGRAPH 3 OF UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 638). I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT THIS POINT WAS QUITE WELL TAKEN BY MR HAUGHEY. HE ASKED ME WHETHER I MEANT IT WOULD BE UNHELPFUL TO OUR INTERESTS OR TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE. I REPEATED THAT OUR ANXIETY TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FURTHER VIOLENCE WAS AS STRONG AS IT HAD EVER BEEN. WHILE ACCEPTING THIS, HE SAID THAT FROM WHAT MR PYM HAD SAID FOLLOWING HIS MEETING IN NEW YORK IT SEEMED THAT WE HAD RATHER GIVEN UP THE DIPLOMATIC METHOD IN THE UN AND WERE NOW CONCENTRATING EXCLUSIVELY ON MILITARY OPERATIONS. I SAID THAT FOLLOWING HIS TALK WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MR PYM HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE ROLE FOR THE U.N. I AGAIN REPEATED OUR ANXIETY TO SEE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE AND I THINK HE NOW ACCEPTS THAT WE DO. HE ASKED ME FORMALLY TO PASS ON TO HMG THE IRISH VIEW THAT THE ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT MEANT THAT WAR WAS NOW A FACT, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT A LEGAL ONE, AND THAT THE BELGRANO SINKING HAD RADICALLY CHANGED THE WHOLE SITUATION. IN EXCHANGE HE REPEATED HIS UNDERTAKING TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY OUR POINT ABOUT NOT HAVING A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE JUST NOW.

FIGG

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SENT/RECD AT 041420Z CB/MWG