

Mufaxed to Chequer at 2230, 9/4

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(28)

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GRS 200

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[TYPISTS]

(FM BERNE 091700Z)

FM BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION SWISS EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 02 OF 08 APRIL
AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND MONTEVIDEO

ATMOSPHERE IN BUENOS AIRES:

1. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION TODAY IS ONE OF GREAT UNCERTAINTY AND CONCERN. BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FACTORS IN TODAY'S MEDIA NEWS ACCENTUATE THIS ATMOSPHERE.
2. UNDER NEGATIVE I WOULD INCLUDE THE HEADLINE NEWS OF THE BRITISH BLOCKADE OF THE ISLANDS DECREED FOR NEXT MONDAY MORNING AND SUPPORTED BY THE CONTINUING APPROACH OF THE BRITISH FLEET. THE ARGENTINE REACTION HAS BEEN TO CALL UP THEIR 1962 CLASS OF MILITARY RESERVISTS AND PUT THEM ON ALERT FOR EARLY INCORPORATION INTO THE FORCES.
3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE TODAY'S PRESS ALSO HEADLINES THE NATO APPEAL TO BRITAIN TO CALL BACK ITS FLEET, AND THE LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE QUOTE HERALD UNQUOTE REPRODUCES A MESSAGE FROM THE LOCAL BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER URGING HER TO SEEK

APPEAL TO BRITAIN TO CALL BACK ITS FLEET, AND THE LOCAL ENGLISH-
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BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER URGING HER TO SEEK
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE STRONG
BRITISH PRESCENCE IN ARGENTINA AND THE SIZE OF THE LOCAL BRITISH
COMMUNITY. HAIG'S JOURNEY TO LONDON AND EXPECTED ARRIVAL IN
BUENOS AIRES ARE ALSO HEADLINED.

4. MEANWHILE AN ATMOSPHERE OF MILITARY PREPARATION IS BEING FOSTER-
ED BY TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTS APPEALING FOR NATIONAL UNITY
IN THIS HOUR OF CRISIS. LAST NIGHT TELEVISION CARRIED SHOTS OF
16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS VOLUNTEERING FOR ACTION - MILITARY, IF
NECESSARY, IN THE ISLANDS.

5. THE UNDERLYING IMPRESSION IS OF A GOVERNMENT OUTWARDLY STRONG
BUT WITH A GOOD DEAL OF INNER UNCERTAINTY BEGINNING TO TAKE HOLD.

JOY

LEE

NNNN

SENHAT RECD AT 091742Z JM/ JEG