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PP BIS BUENOS AIRES

GRS 300

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FM FCO 191230Z APRIL 82

TO PRIORITY BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 20 APR

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
IN ARGENTINA

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ARGENTINA. THE TEXT IS IN MIFT.
2. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING RENLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:  
BEGINS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR TELEGRAM ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I AM AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WHICH YOUR CHAMBER HAS MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL LINKS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UK, AND THE MAJOR ROLE WHICH THESE HAVE PLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINA. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS, LIKE YOUR CHAMBER, CONCERNED THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES ARE NOW AT RISK. HOWEVER, THIS SITUATION HAS NOT BEEN OF OUR SEEKING: IT HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THEIR DEPENDENCIES.

WE WANT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE ONE. HOWEVER THIS MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF THE MANDATORY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UN, WHICH CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES. ANY INTENSITY OF FEELING IN ARGENTINA ON THIS SUBJECT IS FULLY MATCHED BY THE OUTRAGE AT ARGENTINA'S INVASION FELT HERE. IF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ITS VIEWS BY FORCE ON THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, WHO HAVE MANY TIMES MADE QUITE CLEAR THEIR DETERMINATION TO REMAIN BRITISH, WERE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED, THERE WOULD BE THE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES

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FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW, NOT ONLY IN THE SOUTH  
ATLANTIC, BUT IN THE WIDER WORLD ALSO. ENDS

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