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TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES  
GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 64 OF 20 APRIL 1982

FALKLANDS: MILITARISM AND REPRESSION IN ARGENTINA

1. WE ARE SENDING A BACKGROUND BRIEF ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT YOU CAN MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS, AS APPROPRIATE (CLEARLY NOT ALL ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE FOR ALL COUNTRIES).

A. MILITARISM HAS DEEP ROOTS IN ARGENTINA. THE MILITARY SEE THEMSELVES AS CREATORS OF THE NATION AND DEFENDERS OF ITS CULTURE AND HAVE NOT HESITATED TO DISPENSE WITH DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WHEN IT SUITED THEM. THE PRESENT REGIME IS A MILITARY JUNTA WHICH SEIZED POWER IN 1976: GENERAL GALTIERI OUSTED GENERAL VIOLA IN 1981. THERE IS NO REAL SIGN OF RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OR OF CIVILIAN RULE.

B. HUMAN RIGHTS - DENIAL OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS HAS LED TO POPULAR FRUSTRATION, WHICH CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE GROWTH OF VIOLENCE FROM BOTH POLITICAL EXTREMES. WITH THE COUNTRY UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE THE SECURITY FORCES, MAINLY IN THE PERIOD 1978-9, ABDUCTED AND TORTURED POLITICAL OPPONENTS: SEVERAL THOUSAND, WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN AGAIN, ARE REFERRED TO BY ARGENTINES AS 'THE DISAPPEARED': THE UN WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE ESTIMATED THAT THE NUMBER MAY BE AS HIGH AS 9,000. RECENT APPARENT IMPROVEMENTS LARGELY RESULT FROM ELIMINATION OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME.

C. THE MILITARY REGIME'S REJECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BY INVADING THE FALKLANDS IS MATCHED BY ITS REPUDIATION IN 1977 OF THE AWARD OF AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL, TO WHICH ARGENTINA AND CHILE HAD SUBMITTED THEIR BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE, DESPITE BOTH PARTIES' PRIOR AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT THE TRIBUNAL'S FINDINGS. IN FEBRUARY 1982 THEY RENOUNCED THE TREATY WITH CHILE WHICH GUARANTEED THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL CLAIMS.

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/ D. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

D. FOREIGN RELATIONS. THE ARGENTINE MILITARY HAVE NO SCRUPLES ABOUT COOPERATING WITH OTHER REPRESSIVE REGIMES. IN RECENT YEARS THEY HAVE STRENGTHENED TIES WITH BOTH THE USSR AND SOUTH AFRICA. THEIR GRAIN DELIVERIES TO THE USSR UNDERMINED THE US-LED EMBARGO AFTER THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN AND THEY ARE NOW THE USSR'S BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. LIKEWISE THEY HAVE DEFIED INTERNATIONAL ATTEMPTS TO DISCOURAGE SPORTING LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. UNATTRIBUTABLE: THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN INCREASING MILITARY AND OTHER CONTACTS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

E. EFFECT ON FALKLANDS. ALL THIS UNDERSTANDABLY REINFORCES THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS' DETERMINATION NOT TO SUBMIT TO ARGENTINE RULE, WHICH IS BASED ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ORIGIN, LANGUAGE, TRADITIONS AND WAY OF LIFE.

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