

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

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LORD N G LENNOX
LORD BRIDGES
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

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PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUUSD STAFF MOD
PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)
MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
SIR M PALLISER)
MR A D S GOODALL)
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 705 OF 07 JULY 1982

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IMMEDIATE

FALKLANDS: FRENCH COMMENT

1. IN A DEBATE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 6 JULY ON FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY, CHEYSSON MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE FALKLANDS:

" IN THE FALKLANDS THE ARGENTINE AGGRESSION TRIGGERED OFF A SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL STROVE TO CONTROL. BUT RESOLUTION 502 WAS IGNORED AND THE WAR FOLLOWED, CAUSING 800-1000 DEATHS AND SERIOUS DAMAGE AND WASTE. DEMONSTRATING SOLIDARITY WITH HER ALLY AND WISHING TO UPHOLD THE LAW, FRANCE WAS LED TO INVOKE THE SANCTIONS WHICH HAVE SINCE BEEN LIFTED. I HOPE THAT THE ELEMENTS WHICH PROVOKED THIS WAR-THE REJECTION OF THE RULE OF LAW AND THE FAILURE TO RESPECT THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL-BELONG TO THE PAST AND THAT FROM NOW ON ALL THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY NEGOTIATION, ESPECIALLY THE PROBLEM OF SOVEREIGNTY A SUBJECT ON WHICH FRANCE HAS NEVER TAKEN A POSITION "

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2. MAURICE FAURE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMISSION, COMMENTED LATER IN THE DEBATE THAT THE EC HAD
REACTED WELL IN MANIFESTING ITS SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN, AND THAT
HE HOPED THE BRITISH WOULD NOT FORGET THAT TOO RAPIDLY. ON THE
STATUS OF THE FALKLANDS FAURE SAID THAT " GREAT BRITAIN WOULD
BE WRONG TO CONSIDER THE FALKLANDS A TERRITORY COMING UNDER HER
SOVEREIGNTY PURELY AND SIMPLY. THIS PROBLEM DEMANDS PERHAPS A
SUI GENERIS (UNDERLINED) SOLUTION WHICH IT IS NOT OUR JOB TO
DETERMINE."

3. LE MONDE DATED 7 JULY CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED
" ARGENTINA DOES HER ACCOUNTS". MOST OF THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES
THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE ARGENTINE INTERNAL POLITICAL- AND
PARTICULARLY MILITARY- SCENE RESULTING FROM THE SURRENDER OF
STANLEY, EMPHASISING THE EXTENT OF THE SHOCK TO AND DECEPTION OF
THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE. REPORTING A STATEMENT BY GENERAL NICOLAIDES
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RECONQUEST OF ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER
THE FALKLANDS WOULD BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY ON DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS, THE ARTICLE CONTINUES " THAT IS AN AREA IN WHICH
ARGENTINA IS NOW ALMOST GUARANTEED TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON SUPPORT
FROM NUMEROUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING DOUBTLESS FRANCE. IN THEIR KEEN
DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE
REGIME, THE UNITED STATES MAY ATTEMPT TO SEEK TO RE-ESTABLISH THE
PRESTIGE THEY WERE DEVELOPING IN LATIN AMERICA BY NOT OPPOSING
ARGENTINA'S HISTORICAL CLAIM."

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