

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

37  
(22)

Valid 8/4)

PS No. 10 DOWNING ST.

LPS  
PS/  
PS/LORD TREFGARNE  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE  
HD/EEED  
HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
HD/DEF D  
HD/NEWS D  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
HD/HKGD  
HD/ECB (4)  
RESIDENT CLERK

\* For Typists - Merge

IMMEDIATE

PS/CHANCELLOR  
SIR K COUZENS  
MR LITTLER  
MR HAWTIN  
MR PERETZ  
MR ILETT  
MR MCINTYRE

H.M. Tsy

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/En

DIO CABINET OFFICE

Mr Wade-Gery Cabinet Office

MR S. FULLER S.A.P.O.  
Cabinet Office

Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

RESTRICTED

FM MOSCOW 100845Z APR 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 188 OF 10TH APRIL

FOR INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON AND UKDEL NATO.

MY TELNO 185: FALKLAND ISLANDS; SOVIET ATTITUDE.

1. IN THE LAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS THE SOVIET PRESS HAS TAKEN A CLEAR ANTI-BRITISH LINE AND HAS EXPLICITLY ASSOCIATED THE U.S. WITH THE U.K. POSITION IN THE DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA.

2. IN PARTICULAR, PRAVDA THIS MORNING, REPORTING TASS FROM NEW YORK, PICKS UP AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY MR NOTT TO ABC TELEVISION, FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE. "NEWS AGENCIES STATE THAT THE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE DEFENCE SECRETARY INCREASED TENSION IN ANGLO-ARGENTINE CONFLICT STILL MORE." MR NOTT'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE UK'S WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE ANY ARGENTINE VESSEL, MILITARY OR CIVIL, WITHIN THE ZONE "SMACKS OF OLD COLONIALISM.... THE TIMES WHEN DISPUTES COULD BE SETTLED BY GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY ARE ONE...THE ATTEMPTS NOW MADE BY THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM IN A MILITARY WAY CONTRADICT THE U.N. DECISION ON THE DECOLONIZATION OF THE FALKLANDS (MALVINAS).... AND REPRESENT A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY....IT IS CLEAR THAT BRITAIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS RECKLESS POLICY, FOR IT IS PRECISELY BRITAIN THAT OVER MANY YEARS STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO CARRY OUT U.N. DECISIONS ON DECOLONIALISATION....AND WAS AVOIDING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE...THE AGGRESSIVE COURSE TAKEN BY THE TORIES....

YEARS STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO CARRY OUT U.N. DECISIONS ON DECOLONIALISATION.....AND WAS AVOIDING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE....THE AGGRESSIVE COURSE TAKEN BY THE TORIES.... MEETS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF THE U.S. THOUGHT IT IS PREFERRED IN WASHINGTON NOT TO SAY THIS ALOUD." PRAVDA GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE U.S. HAS GIVEN THE R.A.F. PERMISSION TO USE THE AIR BASE ON ASCENSION ISLAND WHICH THE BRITISH NAVAL FORCE WILL USE AS A REAR BASE IN OPERATIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA.

3. OTHER MAIN POINTS OF MEDIA COMMENT HERE:

(I) COMMENT HOSTILE TO THE UK BY TASS "POLITICAL NEWS ANALYST" KORNILOV ON 9 APRIL (NOT YET PICKED UP BY THE SOVIET PRESS) ATTRIBUTED BRITAIN'S "OLD IMPERIAL AMBITIONS" TO THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE ARCHIPELAGO, INCLUDING REPORTS OF HUGE OIL RESERVES.

(II) LONDON TASS CORRESPONDENT CHUKSEYEV ON 9 APRIL SPECULATED ON THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR STERLING AND THE UK ECONOMY OF THE COST OF THE NAVAL TASK FORCE AND ANY HOSTILITIES. (AGAIN NOT YET CARRIED IN THE PRESS).

(III) SEVERAL SMALLER EC GOVERNEMENTS ARE CONCERNED BY UK POLICY AND DO NOT SUPPORT THE CALL FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA. PRAVDA THIS MORNING QUOTES IRISH TIMES REPORTS OF IRISH HOSTILITY TO SANCTIONS.

(IV) PRAVDA ON 9 APRIL ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S REPUTATION WAS CONTINUING TO FALL AND QUOTED MR CALLAGHAN AS SAYING IN THE HOUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT FROM THE OPPOSITION.

BROOKE TURNER

NNNN