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CONFIDENTIAL

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OO PORT STANLEY DESKBY 211930Z
 GRS 411
 CONFIDENTIAL
 DESKBY 211930Z (PORT STANLEY AND BUENOS AIRES)
 FM FCO 211745Z MARCH 82
 TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 36 OF 21 MARCH
 AND TO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES
 INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK NAVY, CINCFLEET

Am 948/325/12		
23 MAR 1982		
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PORT STANLEY TELNO 211125Z AND BUENOS AIRES TELNO 85: ILLEGAL
 LANDING IN SOUTH GEORGIA

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1, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT, UNTIL CONFIRMATION RECEIVED FROM BASE
 COMMANDER GRITVIKEN THAT ARGENTINE SHIP AND PARTY HAVE LEFT
 LEITH, ENDURANCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROCEED TO SOUTH GEORGIA.

2. IF ARGENTINE SHIP HAS LEFT LEITH, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN
 WHETHER IT WILL NOW CALL AT GRITVIKEN TO APPLY FOR CLEARANCE
 FORMALITIES. ON THE FACE OF IT THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY. IF IT
 DOES TURN UP, BASE COMMANDER SHOULD RESTATE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S
 STRONG DISPLEASURE AT THIS ILLEGAL AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION AND
 MAKE CLEAR THAT IT COULD HAVE ESCALATED INTO A SERIOUS
 INCIDENT WITH FAR REACHING POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. IF
 ARGENTINE PARTY APPEAR READY TO BEHAVE CORRECTLY
 HENCEFORWARD AND TO SEEK THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORISATION,
 WE WILL WISH TO CONSIDER THE POSITION. BASE COMMANDER
 SHOULD THEREFORE SAY THAT HE WILL NEED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES
 TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS.

3. GRATEFUL MEANWHILE FOR EARLY COMMENTS FROM YOU AND
 BASE COMMANDER ON BLANCO'S DENIAL (BUENOS AIRES TUR)
 THAT ARGENTINE SERVICE PERSONNEL OR WEAPONS WERE INVOLVED.
 IN PARTICULAR, WE NEED CLARIFICATION OF REPORT (PARA 2
 OF PORT STANLEY 201125Z) OF SHOTS BEING FIRED, EG BY
 WHOM AND AT WHOM?. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD BE
 ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ON THE FACTS.

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4. WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED NO PRESS ENQUIRIES.
 WE WILL BE CONSIDERING ADVISABILITY OF ISSUING PRESS
 STATEMENT ON 22 MARCH, IN ORDER TO PREEMPT ANY SUBSEQUENT

/CRITICISM,

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CRITICISM, THAT WE HAVE SOUGHT TO CONCEAL THIS INCIDENT. IF APPROACHED, MEANWHILE, WE WILL AMEND LINE IN PARA 4 OF MY TELNO 35 TO SAY THAT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAVE INFORMED US THAT BAHIA BUEN SUCESO HAS BEEN ORDERED TO LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA AND THAT WE ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION.

5. FOR BUENOS AIRES. PLEASE TELL BLANCO THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S QUICK RESPONSE AND FOR INSTRUCTION TO BAHIA BUEN SUCESO TO LEAVE. WE HOPE TO HAVE EARLY CONFIRMATION THAT THIS INSTRUCTION HAS BEEN FOLLOWED. WE TOO HAVE NO WISH TO BUILD UP THIS ISSUE UNNECESSARILY. WE TRUST, HOWEVER, THAT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FULL AND URGENT ENQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT AND WILL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ANY FURTHER IRRESPONSIBLE AND PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS OF THIS NATURE ARE AVOIDED. WE WILL INFORM ARGENTINE CHARGE' ACCORDINGLY
CARRINGTON

STANDARD
S AM D
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FAULKLAND ISLANDS