

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES FALKLAND ISLANDS

X(26)

PS (6)  
PS/LPS (3)  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/LORD TREFGARNE  
PS/PUS (2)  
MR GIFFARD  
MR URE  
MR ADAMS  
MR WRIGHT  
MR GILLMORE  
HD/SAMD(a)(FCO Dist + A/D Falkland Islands)  
HD/UND  
HD/DEF DEPT  
HD/NEWS DEPT  
RESIDENT CLERK

PS No.10 Downing Street  
DIO Cabinet Office

(Copies passed to Emergency  
Staff and MOD Sitcen)

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GRS360

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CANBERRA 040605Z APR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 129 OF 4 APRIL

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

YOUR TEL NO 99: FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WAS PASSED TO MR FRASER IN TASMANIA BEFORE MIDDAY LOCAL TIME ON 3 APRIL. I UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS REPLIED VIA AUSTRALIA HOUSE.
2. MR FRASER FORTHWITH ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE, WHICH HE HIMSELF SUBSEQUENTLY READ OVER NATIONAL TELEVISION. IT CONDEMNED THE ARGENTINE "INVASION AND OCCUPATION" "IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS", AND CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL AT ONCE FROM THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED. MR FRASER SAID HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. IN REPLY TO A TV QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN ACTION, EG. SEVERENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HE SAID THE CABINET WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER FURTHER ACTION.
3. TODAY SUNDAY 4 APRIL, MR FRASER WILL BE SPEAKING IN MELBOURNE, WHERE HE WILL HOWEVER UNDERSTANDABLY BE PREOCCUPIED BY LABOUR'S

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3. TODAY SUNDAY 4 APRIL, MR FRASER WILL BE SPEAKING IN MELBOURNE, WHERE HE WILL HOWEVER UNDERSTANDABLY BE PREOCCUPIED BY LABOUR'S APPARENTLY SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY IN THE STATE ELECTIONS, AFTER 27 YEARS OF LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

4. TODAY'S EXTREMELY LIGHT-WEIGHT AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORTS EVENTS WITH TOTAL SUPPORT FOR OUR CASE AND NONE FOR THE ARGENTINIANS. IT CARRIES BOTH MR FRASER'S STATEMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN INTERVENTION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE TABLOID SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, IS THE ONLY LEADER ON THE SUBJECT, SAYS THAT THE BRITISH MUST RESIST THE JUNTA'S DANGEROUS PLAY. IT COULD BE TIME FOR BRITAIN TO SHOW THAT SHE WILL NOT BE PUSHED AROUND BY ANY TIN-POT, THIRD-RATE POWER WHICH MIGHT DECIDE TO TRY. "CANBERRA SHOULD HASTEN TO LET THE OLD COUNTRY KNOW WHERE WE STAND AS WELL".

5. PERHAPS PARTLY AT MY URGING, THE AUSTRALIAN, THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER HERE, WILL LEAD TOMORROW'S PAPER (5 APRIL) WITH WHAT THE (BRITISH) AUTHOR OF IT DESCRIBES AS A 100 PER CENT BRITISH EDITORIAL.

MASON

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