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E.O. 12065:

TAGS: MORG, MPOL, AR, UK, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION WITH ARGENTINE PRESIDENT  
GALTIERI

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. THE PRESIDENT TELEPHONED ARGENTINE PRESIDENT GALTIERI AT 2030 EST TO DISCUSS THREAT OF ARGENTINE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST FALKLAND ISLANDS. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT USG HAD SOLID INFORMATION THAT ARGENTINA WAS PLANNING TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE ISLANDS, AND WARNED THAT DOING SO WOULD BE A TRAGEDY, AND WOULD GRAVELY COMPROMISE US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT MADE A PERSONAL APPEAL TO GALTIERI NOT TO TAKE ANY MILITARY STEP AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLAND CHAIN AND OFFERED THE USG'S GOOD OFFICES, INCLUDING HIS WILLINGNESS TO SEND VICE PRESIDENT BUSH TO BUENOS AIRES.

PAGE 02 STATE 087911

3. GALTIERI REPLIED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN; BUT THE UK HAD REFUSED TO RELINQUISH SOVEREIGNTY FOR 149 YEARS AND TIME HAD RUN OUT. HE WENT ON TO REFUSE PRESIDENT'S OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES AND SAID THE US APPEAL HAD BEEN SIMPLY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

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4. WHEN PRESIDENT PRESSED GALTIERI WHETHER GOA INTENDED TO USE FORCE, GALTIERI REPLIED THAT ARGENTINA FEELS FREE TO USE WHATEVER RESOURCES ARE AT ITS DISPOSAL, UNLESS RMG THAT VERY NIGHT RECOGNIZED FULL ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL OF THE ISLANDS AND AGREED TO PROVISIONS FOR TURNING OVER CONTROL WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS. WHEN PRESSED WHETHER ARGENTINE MILITARY WOULD TAKE ACTION IN THE MORNING, GALTIERI STATED THAT GOA HAD FULL FREEDOM TO USE FORCE AT THE MOMENT IT JUDGES OPPORTUNE.

5. FOLLOWING THE CONVERSATION, THE PRESIDENT SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER. HAIG  
[REDACTED]

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