

Current Class: [REDACTED]
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1982LONDON07427

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

PAGE 01 LONDON 07427 031253Z
 ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 AF-10 CIAE-00
 EA-10 DODE-00 JH-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 ANSAE-00 SSO-00
 HA-06 L-03 TRSE-00 FM-09 PA-01 INRE-00 SAL-01
 ANAE-00 ACDA-12 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /120 W
 -----275614 031258Z /46

O 031249Z APR 82
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8644
 INFO NATO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BELIZE IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN FULL

[REDACTED] LONDON 07427

E.O. 12065: RDS-3 4/3/02 (STREATOR, E.J.) OR-M
 TAGS: FBOR, AR, UK, US
 SUBJECT: THE FALKLANDS CRISIS: HMG UNDER PRESSURE

BEGIN SUMMARY: MRS. THATCHER AND HER CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT FACE THEIR TOUGHEST CRISIS SINCE COMING TO POWER, AS THEY TURN NOW FROM DESPERATE, LAST-MINUTE EFFORTS TO DISSUADE THE ARGENTINES FROM TAKING THE FALKLANDS TO THE HARD FACT THAT THE ARGENTINES ARE THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. ENTIRE TEXT - [REDACTED]
2. IN ITS FIRST SATURDAY SESSION SINCE THE SUEZ CRISIS OF 1956, THE COMMONS ARE MEETING TODAY, APRIL 3, IN AN EMERGENCY SESSION ON THE FALKLAND ISSUE. MRS. THATCHER, [REDACTED]

PAGE 02 LONDON 07427 031253Z

WHO WILL LEAD OFF THE DEBATE, IS IN FOR A ROUGH TIME. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, LORD CARRINGTON, WILL FIND IT EQUALLY ROUGH IN THE LORDS.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
 DATE/CASE ID: 6 NOV 2001 199903752

Current Class: ██████████
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1982LONDON07427

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

3. THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS NEED NOT BE HELD UNTIL MAY 1984, AND THE TORIES HAVE A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN THE COMMONS. BUT BRITAIN IS MOVING INTO A PRE-ELECTORAL FRAME OF MIND, AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE GOING TO PLAY THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT COMPETENCE IN HANDLING THE CRISIS FOR ALL IT IS WORTH. NOR IS COMPETENCE THE ONLY ISSUE. THERE IS, AS WELL, A BROADER SENSE OF HUMILIATION, KEEN ESPECIALLY ON THE TORY RIGHT, THAT A GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO STRENGTHEN BRITAIN'S POWERS HAS BEEN UNABLE, WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, TO DEFEND BRITISH SUBJECTS AND BRITISH SOIL IN ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE.

4. CERTAIN QUESTIONS ARE IN THE FOREFRONT: WHY DID THE GOVERNMENT NOT MOVE MUCH SOONER TO BEEF UP BRITISH FORCES IN THE AREA, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINES THAT THE MILITARY PRICE OF OCCUPATION COULD BE HIGH. WHY DID THE GOVERNMENT NOT LEVEL WITH THE COMMONS ON APRIL 2 AS PUBLIC REPORTS ABOUT THE INVASION WERE COMING IN. AND WHY WERE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE ISLANDS, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME OF CRISIS, SO TENUOUS AND VULNERABLE.

5. DEFENSE SECRETARY JOHN NOTT IS LIKELY TO TAKE THE BRUNT OF MUCH OF THIS--AND THERE IS SPECULATION ALREADY ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR HIS RESIGNATION. HE SEEMED UNSURE OF HIS GROUND AND DEEPLY WORRIED ON TELEVISION FRIDAY EVENING--MUCH MORE THE HARRIED TECHNICIAN THAN A CONFIDENT MAN OF POWER. LORD CARRINGTON DID BETTER IN THE JOINT GRILLING OF THEIR INTERVIEW. BUT QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED TOO ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE CRISIS. BOTH APPEARED

██████████
 ██████████

PAGE 03 LONDON 07427 031253Z

TIRED--AND WITH REASON, AS THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN THROUGH A GRINDING SCHEDULE OF WORK AND MEETINGS.

6. BEYOND THE POLITICAL FALLOUT, THERE IS A SENSE OF DISQUIET, SPECIALLY DISTURBING TO A PEOPLE COMMITTED TO LAW AND PROCEDURE, THAT THE NAKED USE OF FORCE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. BRITAINS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO GROPE FOR THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS LESSON. THERE IS NO MENTION YET OF THE RELEVANCE FOR BRITAIN'S OTHER OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS, GIBRALTAR, HONG KONG, BELIZE, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE FALKLANDS EXPERIENCE WILL HAVE SOME IMPACT ON BRITISH THINKING IN THIS AREA. MUCH MORE IMMEDIATE, OF COURSE, IS THE ANGUISHING, CENTRAL ISSUE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF WHETHER

Current Class: ██████████

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1982LONDON07427

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

BRITAIN ITSELF SHOULD TRY TO USE FORCE, SEVEN THOUSAND MILES FROM HOME, AND HOW TO EXPLAIN THAT DECISION TO A PARLIAMENT AND PEOPLE, WHO KNOW THE GOVERNMENT HAVE FACED DIFFICULT CHOICES BUT WHO ARE TROUBLED ABOUT HOW IT HAS RESPONDED.

7. AS FOR THE UNITED STATES, HMG IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR OUR EFFORTS IN PRIVATE AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN RECENT DAYS. THERE IS ALREADY RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR ROLE IN THE PRESS, AND SOME SHARP COMMENT ABOUT THE SOVIET POSTURE. AS HMG STRIVES FOR A DETERMINED AND ACTIVE IMAGE IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK TO WASHINGTON FOR SUPPORT. STREATOR

[REDACTED]
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED