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FALKLAND ISLANDS : PUBLISHED INDICATIONS OF ARGENTINE INTENTIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING INDICATIONS HAVE APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF ARGENTINE MOBILISATION AND INTENTIONS TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THE SOUTH GEORGIA INCIDENT, (NAMES OF DAILY NEWSPAPERS QUOTED IN BRACKETS):

(A) THE CORVETTES DRUMMOND AND GRANVILLE AND AN UNNAMED SUBMARINE WERE DESPATCHED TO THE SOUTH GEORGIA AREA. (CLARIN, 28 MARCH).

(B) THE ARGENTINE NAVY DESPATCHED 5 SHIPS TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AMID A DEEPENING TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH BRITAIN OVER A GROUP OF REMOTE ISLANDS, OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY.

2 CORVETTES WILL SUPPORT AN ATLANTIC PATROL VESSEL STANDING BY OFF THE BRITISH OUTPOST OF SOUTH GEORGIA, WHILE 2 DESTROYERS AND A SUBMARINE SAILED FROM MAR DEL PLATA QUOTE IN READINESS FOR OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC UNQUOTE THE SOURCE SAID. ALL NAVAL LEAVE WAS CANCELLED (BUENOS AIRES HERALD, 29 MARCH).

(C) BAHIA BLANCA : NAVAL AUTHORITIES IN THIS CITY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ALL LEAVE OF PERSONNEL HAS BEEN CANCELLED. ALL PERSONNEL ARE ON MAXIMUM ALERT AND READY TO OPERATE. (EL DIARIO, 29 MARCH).

(D) QUOTE OUR NAVAL FORCES ARE READY TO GUARANTEE ARGENTINE NAVAL SOVEREIGNTY IN THE ZONE WHERE THE INCIDENT HAPPENED UNQUOTE ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN PUERTO BELGRANO. QUOTE IN SUPPORT OF SUCH STATEMENTS, IT WAS LEARNED UNOFFICIALLY THAT 3 SHIPS WERE PREPARED TO SAIL FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ON 28 MARCH UNQUOTE. (CRONICA, 29 MARCH).

(E) IN LESS THAN 48 HOURS THE DESTROYER SANTISIMA TRINIDAD WAS REPAIRED AND ITS MISSILE COMPLEMENT FILLED TO ENABLE IT TO LEAVE THE NAVAL BASE OF PUERTO BELGRANO. THE HERCULES AND 25 DE MAYO, AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, WERE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAILED. (CLARIN, 30 MARCH).

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(F) THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, AMADEO FRUGOLI, TALKING TO JOURNALISTS, SUPPORTED THE ACTION OF THE SCRAP MERCHANTS IN RAISING THE ARGENTINE FLAG AT LEITH HARBOUR QUOTE BECAUSE IT IS OUR TERRITORY UNQUOTE. (CLARIN, 31 MARCH).

(G) FRUGOLI, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE FLEET IN THE FAR SOUTH, COMMENTED THAT NAVAL UNITS WERE IN THAT SECTOR. (LA PRENSA, 31 MARCH).

(H) OFFICIAL SOURCES CONFIRMED TO SEVERAL AGENCIES IN BUENOS AIRES THAT THE ICE BREAKER, ALMIRANTE IRIZAR, AND THE DESTROYERS (SIC) 25 DE MAYO, HERCULES AND SANTISIMA TRINIDAD, WERE REPORTEDLY SAILING TOWARDS THE ZONE FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS. LAST WEDNESDAY (24 MARCH) MEANWHILE THE CORVETTES DRUMMOND AND GRANVILLE SAILED FROM THE PORT OF MAR DEL PLATA. (CONVICCION, 31 MARCH).

(I) ACCORDING TO DR COSTA MENDEZ, THE ARGENTINE WORK CREW ON SOUTH GEORGIA QUOTE ARE ON ARGENTINE SOIL AND CAN COUNT ON PROTECTION FROM THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES UNQUOTE. (BUENOS AIRES HERALD, 31 MARCH).

(J) ACCORDING TO SOURCES WITH ACCESS TO AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, THE NO 1 AIR BRIGADE IN EL PALOMAR IS IN A STATE OF ALERT FOR THE TRANSPORT OF TROOPS TO THE SOUTH. (LA NACION, 1 APRIL)

(K) IN THE LAST FEW DAYS COMBAT UNITS AND TROOP TRANSPORTERS, INCLUDING MISSILE CARRYING CORVETTES, HAVE LEFT BAHIA BLANCA FOR SOUTH GEORGIA. (CLARIN, 1 APRIL).

(L) THERE ARE GREAT HOPES THAT ARGENTINA WILL RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS., SAID FOREIGN MINISTER DR NICANOR COSTA MENDEZ. ASKED IF THE RECOVERY WOULD BE SOON, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID QUOTE THAT IS FOR GOD TO SAY . THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HOPES AND AS TIME PASSES THE HOPES GET STRONGER UNQUOTE. (CLARIN, 1 APRIL)

2. MOST NEWSPAPERS ON 1 APRIL TALK OF THERE BEING A SOLUTION BY DIPLOMATIC OR QUOTE OTHER UNQUOTE MEANS WITHIN 48 HOURS.

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