

Std Distr
ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

XX
X-11
1604
No 1035
Cab. office

Hd/SAMD
Hd/Defence
Hd/News D.
PS
PS/LAS
PS/Rutherford
PS/Mr Luce
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Luce.

BAFO 008/23

OO FCO

OO PORT STANLEY

GPS 420

UNCLASSIFIED

FM BUENOS AIRES 23/1510Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 90 OF 23 MARCH 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY

SOUTH GEORGIA : ARGENTINE PRESS TREATMENT

1. THE ILLEGAL LANDING IN SOUTH GEORGIA IS GIVEN HEADLINE TREATMENT IN TODAY'S LOCAL PRESS. THE TONE VARIES FROM THE FACTUAL (FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT OF 22 MARCH IS WIDELY REPRODUCED, AS IS A TERSE STATEMENT ISSUED HERE BY THE MFA LAST NIGHT (SEE BELOW) TO THE HYSTERICAL, AND SOME NEWSPAPERS MAKE CONSIDERABLE PLAY OF AN ALLEGED ATTACK ON THE LADE OFFICE IN PORT STANLEY. THE MORE RESPONSIBLE NEWSPAPERS REFER TO THE LANDING MERELY AS QUOTE AN INCIDENT UNQUOTE, BUT AT THE LOWER END OF THE SCALE, CLARIN'S HEADLINE READS QUOTE SYMBOLIC OCCUPATION OF SOUTH GEORGIA : ARGENTINE GROUP RAISES NATIONAL FLAG, SINGS NATIONAL ANTHEM, THEN DEPARTS UNQUOTE (ITS TEXT ATTRIBUTES THE FLAG INCIDENT SPECIFICALLY TO 14 CREW MEMBERS OF THE BAHIA BUEN SUCESO), WHILE CRONICA'S READS QUOTE BARBAROUS PIRATICAL REACTION : LADE OFFICES ATTACKED UNQUOTE. ALL REPORT THAT THE BAHIA BUEN SUCESO HAS LEFT SOUTH GEORGIA, BUT SOME ALSO QUOTE MFA SOURCES AS CONFIRMING THAT SOME TECHNICAL PERSONNEL STILL REMAIN AT LEITH.

2. THE MFA STATEMENT READS (IN OUR TRANSLATION) AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNS THE PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON 22 MARCH.