

ALQ 050/25		
UNCLASSIFIED		

TOP SECRET 3227 - 1

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GRS 229
 UNCLASSIFIED
 DESKBY 030730Z UKDEL NATO
 FM FCO 030830Z MAY 82
 TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 143 OF 3 MAY
 AND TO IMMEDIATE BERNE (FOR BISBA), UKMIS GENEVA, EC POSTS,
 BRASILIA, SANTIAGO ,LA PAZ, ASUNCION, LIMA, QUITO, BOGOTA, CARACAS,
 PANAMA CITY, MEXICO CITY AND CERTAIN OTHER POSTS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE

1. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS
 RELEASE.

'AT APPROXIMATELY 8 P.M. LONDON TIME THIS EVENING THE
 ARGENTINE CRUISER GENERAL BELGRANO WAS HIT BY TORPEDOES
 FIRED FROM A BRITISH SUBMARINE. THE CRUISER IS BELIEVED
 TO BE SEVERELY DAMAGED.

'ON FRIDAY, 23 APRIL, HMG WARNED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT
 THAT ANY APPROACH ON THE PART OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS, INCLU-
 DING SUBMARINES, NAVAL AUXILIARIES OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT
 WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO A THREAT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION
 OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WOULD ENCOUNTER THE
 APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. THE CRUISER POSED A SIGNIFICANT
 THREAT TO THE BRITISH TASK FORCE MAINTAINING THE TEZ. THE
 ACTION TAKEN WAS FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS
 GIVEN TO THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER BASED ON THE INHERENT
 RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER.
 THE BRITISH SUBMARINE SUFFERED NO DAMAGE IN THE ENGAGEMENT
 AND HAS RESUMED HER PATROL. FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ENGAGE-
 MENT WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS WE HAVE THEM.'

2. SEE MIFT.

PYM

FCO

S AM D

CABINET OFFICE

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

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