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FM FCO 021100Z APRIL 82
TO FLASH WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 624 OF 2 APRIL
INFO FLASH PORT STANLEY

IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, ALL EC POSTS, UKMIS GENEVA, UKDEL NATO, BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, OTTAWA, SANTIAGO.

FALKLANDS CRISIS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED IN HOUSE OF COMMONS BY THE LORD PRIVY SEAL AT 1100 ON 2 APRIL. BEGINS.
MR SPEAKER: WITH PERMISSION I WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS THE SITUATION HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY GRAVE. THERE IS NOW A REAL EXPECTATION THAT AN ARGENTINE ATTACK AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WILL TAKE PLACE VERY SOON. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE SOUGHT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY AND ASSOCIATED OURSELVES IMMEDIATELY WITH A REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT BOTH BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA SHOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND REFRAIN FROM THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE, AND CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION. THERE WAS NO ARGENTINE RESPONSE TO THIS: NOR HAS THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT RESPONDED TO THE MANY APPEALS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO HIM TO DRAW BACK FROM THE USE OF FORCE.
WE ARE TAKING APPROPRIATE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC MEASURES TO SUSTAIN OUR RIGHTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE UN CHARTER. BUT THE HOUSE WILL NOT EXPECT ME TO GIVE DETAILS AT THIS STAGE OF THE MILITARY STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO RESPOND TO THE WORSENING SITUATION. IN THE MEANTIME WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT EVEN AT THIS LATE STAGE WILL RECONSIDER ITS REJECTION OF THE

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DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL AS A MEANS FOR SETTLING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ENDS.

2. IN THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOWED FULL SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED FROM ALL SIDES OF THE HOUSE FOR THE RIGHT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS TO REMAIN BRITISH, FOR THE DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY MEASURES NOW BEING TAKEN BY HMG AND FOR HMG'S ACTION IN TAKING THE ISSUE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE LORD PRIVY SEAL REPEATED THE ASSURANCE THAT HMG WOULD SUSTAIN AND DEFEND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY AND SAID THAT IF THE SITUATION WORSENEED WE WOULD RETURN TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HMG WERE URGED TO MOBILISE ALL POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

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