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TELEGRAM NUMBER 078 OF 6 APRIL

INFO PRIORITY BONN AND UKREP BRUSSELS

ENCL No.
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MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 74 : FALKLANDS

1. AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING (6 APRIL) VAN DER STOEL ISSUED A STATEMENT REGRETTING LORD CARRINGTON'S RESIGNATION AND PAYING WARM TRIBUTE TO HIS QUALITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY OVER RHODESIA.
2. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT CONDEMNED ARGENTINA AND THAT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN CALLED IN AND INFORMED OF THE DUTCH STAND-POINT.
3. THE MFA SPOKESMAN WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT A GROUP OF ARGENTINES DESCRIBED AS UNDERGOING TRAINING WITH HOLLANDSE SIGNAALAPPARATEN (HSA) IN CONNECTION WITH RADAR EQUIPMENT BEING SUPPLIED BY HSA FOR SUBMARINES AND FRIGATES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE FRG FOR ARGENTINA.
4. IN REPLY, THE SPOKESMAN LIMITED HIMSELF TO STATING THAT THE NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT SELL EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA "AT THE PRESENT TIME". HE ADDED THAT THE NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT SELL ARMS OR MILITARY EQUIPMENT "TO ANY COUNTRY AT WAR". TALKS WERE TAKING PLACE WITH THE GERMANS ABOUT THE VESSELS BEING BUILT FOR ARGENTINA IN THE FRG, BUT THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO REQUIRE THE ARGENTINES NOW UNDERGOING TRAINING TO LEAVE. WHEN ASKED IF THE PERSONS IN QUESTION WERE SERVICEMEN, HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW.
5. ASKED IF THE NETHERLANDS INTENDED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA, HE REPLIED THAT ACTION WOULD BE IN CONCERT WITH OTHER EC MEMBER STATES, ALTHOUGH BILATERAL ACTION WAS NOT RULED OUT.
6. ONE PRESS REPORT HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE ARGENTINES NOW UNDER KTHOO TRAINING IN THE NETHERLANDS NUMBER 200. OTHER SOURCES (INCLUDING CONTACTS IN THE MFA) HAVE REFERRED TO 60/70. I HAVE SPOKEN TO REININK ABOUT THIS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE TRAINING WAS BEING CARRIED OUT UNDER A GERMAN CONTRACT WITH THE ARGENTINES. WE ARE TRYING URGENTLY TO DISCOVER THE TERMS OF THIS CONTRACT.

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