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INDEX	PA
	Action Taken

FALKLANDS: FRENCH PRESS COMMENT 15 APRIL

1. THERE IS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT OF NOTE IN TODAY'S FRENCH PRESS. REPORTS ARE LARGELY FACTUAL, CONCENTRATING ON THE COMMONS DEBATE AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HAIG'S SECOND TRIP TO BUENOS AIRES. THE TONE IS GENERALLY MORE POSITIVE THAN YESTERDAY.

2. THE EXCEPTION IS THE DAILY DESPATCH FROM LE FIGARO'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT, SUZANNET. FOLLOWING HIS DISOBLIGING COMMENTS YESTERDAY (PARIS TELNO 343) HE DESCRIBES THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN THE COMMONS AS BEING "UP TO THE MARK OF THE UNBRIDLED PATRIOTISM WHICH HAS TAKEN HOLD OF GREAT BRITAIN" AND SAYS THAT SHE "RETURNED TO AND DEVELOPED MOST OF THE PLATITUDES BEING CHURNED OUT BY THE PROPAGANDA MACHINERY WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING AT FULL POWER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS". BRITISH POLICY IS SAID TO BE THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD CAPITULATE FIRST "AND THEN WE SHALL SEE". SUZANNET CLAIMS THAT IF THE BRITISH HAD WANTED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT THE PRESENT CRISIS WOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED: AND THAT EVEN IF BRITAIN OBTAINS ITS IMMEDIATE AIMS ITS POSITION WILL BE UNTENABLE INSOFAR AS IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DIG IN INDEFINITELY BEHIND THE WISHES OF A HANDFUL OF SHEPHERDS TO OCCUPY ISLANDS WHOSE POSSESSION IS DISPUTED AND WHICH IT CAN NO LONGER DEFEND.

3. NEWS DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONSIDER OFFERING SUZANNET A PERSONAL BRIEFING. HIS CONTEMPTUOUS REFERENCE TO "A HANDFUL OF SHEPHERDS" INDICATES CLEARLY ENOUGH WHERE HE STANDS.

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