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GRS 240
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 DESKBY 251800Z APR 82
 FM BRASILIA 251625Z APR 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO [SIC]
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 110 OF 25 APRIL
 AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK
 REPEATED INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMISNEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 296 TO UKMIS NEW YORK: FALKLANDS

1. COUNSELLOR INFORMED HEAD OF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT BY TELEPHONE OF MOD STATEMENT AT 11 AM (251400Z) TODAY.
2. COUNSELLOR AND I CALLED SUBSEQUENTLY ON RICUPERO TO DELIVER TEXT. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN WASHINGTON.
3. COMMENTING ON THE INCIDENT ITSELF, RICUPERO AGREED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE TASK FORCE MUST DEFEND ITSELF AND TOOK NOTE OF THE WARNING GIVEN TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ON 23 APRIL. HE SAID THAT THE PROXIMITY OF THE TWO FLEETS MADE FURTHER INCIDENTS ALL TOO PROBABLE. HE GAVE ME THE TEXT OF A REPLY TO THE WARNING WHICH ITAMARATY HAD RECEIVED LAST NIGHT FROM BUENOS AIRES (TEXT IN IFT) FOR ONPASSING TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. HE REMARKED ON THE GREAT DISTANCE SEPARATING SOUTH GEORGIA FROM THE FALKLANDS AND THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND AND EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE BASIS OF THE ARGENTINE CLAIM, WHICH I NATURALLY REINFORCED.
4. I SHOWED RICUPERO THE TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE WHICH WE ARE PUTTING OUT TODAY (TEXT IN MY SECOND IFT). HE REMARKED THAT THE BRAZILIAN PRESS WAS IN GENERAL HIGHLY FAVOURABLE TO THE BRITISH POSITION. HE HAD ALREADY NOTED A GALLUP POLL PUBLISHED IN YESTERDAY'S NEWSPAPERS SHOWING THAT OPINION IN SAO PAULO IS ALMOST EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE BRITISH AND ARGENTINE CLAIMS TO THE FALKLANDS, WITH 58 PER CENT OF SOCIAL CLASS A TAKING OUR SIDE AND ONLY 29 PER CENT TAKING THAT OF ARGENTINA.

HARDING

FCO

S AM D

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