

DIADIN 146-76
14 JANUARY 1976

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE

Acquisition 601



Office of the Secretary of Defense *5 U.S.C. § 552*
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 11 JAN 2018 Authority: EO 13526
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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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~~(S//NOFORN)~~ The question of sovereignty over the 143-year British-ruled and Argentine-claimed Falkland Islands has led Buenos Aires to ask London to withdraw its ambassador. The Argentine envoy to the UK, who was called home several weeks ago for consultations, will remain until the situation is resolved.

~~(S//NOFORN)~~ Relations between the UK and Argentina became strained after the Argentine foreign ministry issued a 2 January communique stating that the Falklands -- known to Argentines as the Malvinas -- would be taken over. This statement, which also accused the British of refusing to negotiate sovereignty, was released following a meeting between President Peron and her top defense and foreign affairs advisers. It protested the 3 January arrival in the islands of a British team to explore possibilities for economic development, including suspected offshore petroleum.

~~(S//NOFORN)~~ Although ties -- primarily economic -- between the Falklands and Argentina have increased during recent years, the British Government has refused to relinquish sovereignty. The UK has insisted that the some 2,000 inhabitants, who are primarily of British descent, should have the right to determine their fate.

~~(S//NOFORN)~~ The diplomatic move may have been designed to lessen political pressures on Mrs. Peron and to appease congressional elements calling for the severance of relations. Because of the significant trade between Argentina and

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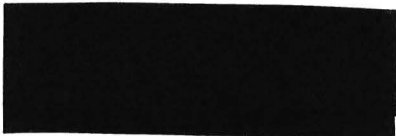
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the UK and the government's need for world economic assistance to prop up its faltering economy, the Argentines will probably not push the issue too far. The discovery of petroleum deposits near the islands, however, could lead to an attempt by oil-short Argentina to seize the lightly defended territory. (~~OS 31-330-00~~)

DIA FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 424

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