

(#58

~~SECRET~~

INNER CABINET DECISION IS AFFIRMATIVE. WE BELIEVE THE ASSAULT
WILL OCCUR [REDACTED] MOD
STILL IS REVIEWING SPECIFIC OPTIONS FOR ENGAGING THE FALKLANDS
FORCES.

98. ~~40-100000~~ ORIG CNTS: WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BRITISH WILL INITIATE THEIR ASSAULT OPERATION ON THE ISLANDS. HOWEVER, WE FORESEE THE UK THREAT TO TAKE STANLEY AIRPORT AS CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPERATING BASE ON THE ISLANDS FROM WHICH GROUND AND AIR OPERATIONS WOULD BE MOUNTED. WASHINGTON ADDRESSES ARE BETTER PLACED THAN US TO ASSESS THE ALTERNATIVE OF A SINGLE, ALL-OUT ATTACK ON THE PORT STANLEY AREA. WE ANTICIPATE SENDING FOLLOW-ON REPORTS ON SPECIFIC SERVICE-RELATED ASPECTS OF THE FALKLANDS ASSAULT.

10. (U) PROJ NO: NA
11. (U) COLL INST CODE: NONE
12. (U) SPEC INST: DISTRIBUTION THIS MSG LIMITED DUE TO SECURE
VOICE NINIC GUIDANCE RECEIVED PRIOR RELEASE THIS MSG. NOFORN CAVAT
ASSIGNED TO PROTECT COLLECTION METHODS AND SOURCES, DIRC: NO
13. (U) PREP BY: ALL USDAO ATTACHES.
14. (U) APP BY: D. L. HEISINGER, CAPT, USN, DATT
15. (U) REQ EVAL: NO
16. (U) ENCL: NA
17. (U) DIST BY ORIG: NA

BT

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL
1. (U) CTRY: UNITED KINGDOM (UK), FALKLAND ISLANDS (FA), ARGENTINA (AR)

4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 820512

5. (U) ORIG: SEE FM LINE

6. (U) REQ REF:

7. (U) SOURCE:

11. (c) SOURCE:

8. ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ SUMMARY: BRITISH TASK FORCE IS NOW NEARING READINESS FOR ASSAULT ON FALKLANDS AND, BARRING DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH AND/OR UNFAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT FIGHTING CALIBER OF ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES CONTINUE.

DA. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DETAILS:

2. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AS THE SEPARATE COMPONENTS OF AN INVASION FORCE BEGAN TO MERGE FOR THE FINAL LEG OF THEIR VOYAGE TO THE FALKLANDS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INNER CABINET WILL MEET ON THE EVENING OF 820518 TO CONSIDER THE FALKLANDS ASSAULT OPTION. THE MEDIA SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE SPLIT BETWEEN "HAWKS" AND "DOVES". OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, DISCUSSION ABOUT ALTERNATIVES FOR ESCALATING MILITARY PRESSURE ON THE JUNTA HAS SUBSIDED; PARTICULARLY IN MOD, THE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON HOW TO GAIN A SURRENDER FROM THE ARGENTINE COMMANDER ON THE FALKLANDS. IN OUR VIEW, THE BRITISH COULD BE READY TO LAUNCH AN INITIAL ASSAULT ON THE FALKLANDS. [REDACTED] LAND, WEATHER PERMITTING, WE SEE NO MILITARY REASON FOR THEM TO DELAY.

2. ~~CONCERN~~ FOR THE BRITISH, THE MAJOR UNCERTAINTIES REMAIN ARGENTINE AIRPOWER AND SUBMARINE THREATS. THE TWO ARGENTINE SUBMARINES REMAIN AT LARGE

3. ~~TO MEET~~ TO MEET THESE UNCERTAINTIES, THE BRITISH ARE FLYING HARRIER "VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE" SORTIES FROM THE ATLANTIC CONVEYOR

ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND THAT TWO SSN SUBMARINES (INCLUDING THE SEA HARPOON-EQUIPPED COURAGEOUS), A DIESEL SUBMARINE AND THREE DESTROYERS/FRIGATES RECENTLY SET SAIL FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. WE SUSPECT THAT THE BRITISH HAVE INSTITUTED OTHER FORCE ENHANCING "FIXES" AS WELL.

4. ~~CONSIDERING~~ AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE WOULD REAFFIRM THE MAJOR THRUST OF OUR [REDACTED] ASSESSMENT [REDACTED] AND FURTHER REFINED OUR PROJECTIONS FOR A UK ASSAULT ON THE FALKLANDS. IF THE

ACTION DIA/SPEC(B)

(N,C)

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

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