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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OPERATIONS CENTER

FALKLAND WORKING GROUP

Situation Report No. 4

Situation in Falkland Islands as of 0700 EST, April 3, 1982

1. Argentina has "evacuated" British marines, officials and any Falkland island residents who wished to leave to Montevideo, Uruguay, the military government announced. The GOA has moved quickly to establish its own administration. Argentina continues to claim that there were no British casualties, and that the operation has been all but bloodless. We have a fairly reliable report of seven casualties on the British side, but no confirmed dead.

2. Prime Minister Thatcher froze Argentine assets in the UK and announced that she was sending a large naval task force to the Falklands. Parliament met today, its first Saturday session since the 1956 Suez crisis.

3. Embassy Buenos Aires reports that Argentina expects Soviet and perhaps Chinese support in the UN Security Council, and hopes that the US will limit its role to "tacit diplomatic support" for the British. The Council will reconvene today. Foreign Minister Costa Mendez arrives this morning, and will seek meetings with non-aligned and Latin American group members. A vote on the UK resolution is expected at today's Security Council meeting, with outcome uncertain and a Soviet or Chinese veto possible.

4. Official Soviet media have stayed neutral over the Falkland dispute.

5. In a preliminary assessment, Embassy Buenos Aires suggests that President Galtieri gambled that a successful invasion of the Falklands would solidify his authority and help him remain in office through 1987.

Robert E. Service
Robert E. Service
Falkland Working Group

Richard W. Erman
Richard W. Erman
Senior Watch Officer

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