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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT FOR VENEZUELA)

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 5-6-02 (ENDERS, T.O.)
TAGS: AR, UK, FA, US
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN REACTION TO SOUTH ATLANTIC CRISIS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. SUMMARY: POPULAR OPINION THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA HAS SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO THE FALKLAND/MALVINAS ISLANDS, BUT HEMISPHERE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT
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TO LEGITIMIZE THE USE OF FORCE. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF US SUPPORT FOR THE UK APRIL 30 AND THE SINKING OF GENERAL BELGRANO MAY 2 LATIN SENTIMENT FOR ARGENTINA HAS SOLIDIFIED. THE ANGLO-ARGENTINE CONFLICT HAS DIVIDED SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES FROM THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, JEOPARDIZED THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, PROVIDED CUBA THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPAIR RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND ADOPT THE MANTLE OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY, IGNITED

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NATIONALIST FEELINGS THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE, AND REVIVED LATENT ANTI-AMERICANISM, WHICH HAS YET TO ERUPT WIDELY IN PUBLIC BUT IS SIMMERING BENEATH THE SURFACE. OFFICIAL CRITICISM OF THE US SO FAR PUBLICLY HAS BEEN

RESTRAINED, EXCEPT NOTABLY VENEZUELA, NICARAGUA AND PERU. A COMPENDIUM OF LATIN AMERICAN REACTIONS BY COUNTRY FOLLOWS. FYI WE ARE CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF ACTIONS TO REAFFIRM US COMMITMENT TO HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY.

3. RECENT LATIN AMERICAN REACTION BY COUNTRY:

-- BRAZIL: FOLLOWING THE US ANNOUNCEMENT APRIL 30 BRAZIL SENT AN APPEAL TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE UN TO "TAKE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES" TO IMPLEMENT UN RESOLUTION 502 "IN ALL ITS ASPECTS." A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUSED TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE CHANGE IN THE US POSITION BUT LINKED US MEASURES TOWARD ARGENTINA TO SANCTIONS ADOPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH BRAZIL DEPLORES. PRIVATELY BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE VOICED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN WITH THE DEGREE AND EXTENT OF THE US TILT TOWARD GREAT BRITAIN. WHILE MAINTAINING OFFICIAL NEUTRALITY, BRAZIL ITSELF HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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TILTED TOWARD ARGENTINA AND HAS RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO AN ARGENTINE REQUEST TO PURCHASE PATROL AIRCRAFT.

--CHILE: FOREIGN MINISTER ROJAS HAS PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED CHILE'S NEUTRALITY IN THE DISPUTE. CHILE'S DEFENSE MINISTER CONFIRMED PUBLICLY MAY 4 THAT, AT ARGENTINA'S REQUEST, CHILE WAS ASSISTING IN RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR THE CREW OF THE BELGRANO. PRESS REPORTS QUOTED CHILE'S AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA AS REASSURING THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE THAT ARGENTINA "HAS ITS BACK GUARDED BY A FIRM AND LOYAL CHILEAN ATTITUDE." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY ASSURED THAT CHILE WOULD NOT SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CRISIS IN ANY OTHER AREA. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HERE AND IN SANTIAGO, THE CHILEANS HAVE SOUGHT TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING ON OUR PART OF THEIR OWN FRUSTRATION OVER YEARS OF INCONCLUSIVE TALKS WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL, AND OF EXASPERATION WITH ARGENTINE "INTRANSIGENCE." THEY SAY THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE UK, WORRY OVER WHAT A VICTORIOUS ARGENTINA MIGHT ATTEMPT AS WELL AS OVER WHAT DEFEAT WOULD IMPLY FOR FUTURE ARGENTINE-CHILEAN RELATIONS.

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-- COLOMBIA: THE GOC REMAINS SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. MEDIATION OR ANY OTHER AVENUE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE GOC SUPPORTS ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY BUT PUBLICLY REJECTS ARGENTINA'S RESORT TO FORCE. THERE

IS A MOOD OF DETACHED CONCERN OVER ARGENTINA'S HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR. COLOMBIA'S POSITION IS DRIVEN BY CONCERN ABOUT NICARAGUA'S CLAIMS TO SAN ANDRES AND BY THE NEED TO OPPOSE FIRST USE OF FORCE TO SOLVE TERRITORIAL CONFLICTS.

-- COSTA RICA: APRIL 30 FOREIGN MINISTER NIEHAUS TOLD OUR EMBASSY OF HIS GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF OUR ACTION ON THE HEMISPHERE AND US RELATIONS WITH IT. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE PREDICTED THAT THE US WOULD COME UNDER A STORM OF PROTEST FROM LATIN AMERICA. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON BRITAIN'S USE OF FORCE. OUTGOING PRESIDENT CARAZO ANNOUNCED MAY 4 THAT HE HAS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENTS OF OAS MEMBER COUNTRIES CITING "US PARTIALITY ON THE MALVINAS" AND RECOMMENDING THAT OAS HEADQUARTERS BE MOVED FROM WASHINGTON. THE INCOMING MONGE ADMINISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE FALKLANDS NEXT WEEK.

-- CUBA: MAY 1 GOC COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNS UK, SUPPORTS ARGENTINA, AND CALLS FOR LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. THE STATEMENT SUGGESTED THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE UK MEANT THE END OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ STATED IN A LE MONDE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MAY 6 THAT CUBA IS PREPARED TO AID ARGENTINA THROUGH ALL MEANS, INCLUDING MILITARY.

-- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: GODR OFFICIALS TOLD OUR EMBASSY MAY 5 THAT THE GODR POSITION TOWARD RECONVENING THE 20TH MFM REMAINS THE SAME: UN AND OAS EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT A HALT OF FIGHTING AND INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN "PREMATURE" ACTION SUCH AS RESUMPTION OF 20TH MFM.

-- ECUADOR: FOREIGN MINISTER VALENCIA ISSUED A STATEMENT APRIL 30 EXPRESSING "DEEP CONCERN" OVER US MEASURES TOWARD ARGENTINA WHICH HE SAID CONSTITUTE "DISREGARD FOR THE COMMITMENT THE US ASSUMED" DURING THE 20TH MFM. HE ANNOUNCED THAT URGENT CONSULTATIONS WERE BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN

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COUNTRIES. A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL
PRIVATELY FORESAW PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES FOR THE INTER-
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AMERICAN SYSTEM RESULTING FROM THE US ACTION. ANOTHER
FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT MAY 2 AGAIN EXPRESSED
SOLIDARITY WITH ARGENTINA AND REJECTED "NEW COLONIAL
AGGRESSION" ON THE PART OF THE UK. AT LEAST PRIOR TO
THE SINKING OF THE BELGRANO HARSH MEDIA REACTION TO
THE US SHIFT WAS LARGELY ABSENT. FOREIGN MINISTER

VALENCIA TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 5 THAT THE INTER-
AMERICAN SYSTEM HAS BEEN WEAKENED. HE PROPOSED A
"MEDIATING COMMITTEE" MADE UP OF COUNTRIES OF THE
CONTINENT TO COOPERATE DIRECTLY WITH ARGENTINA AND GREAT
BRITAIN TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT.

-- GUATEMALA: FOREIGN MINISTER LIMA TOLD OUR EMBASSY
APRIL 30 THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS VERY CLEAR AND THAT
IN LIGHT OF USG ACTIONS, ARGENTINA SHOULD STOP AND CARE-
FULLY MEDITATE ON WHAT IT WAS GOING TO DO NOW. BUT
LIMA TOLD PRESS MAY 3 THAT "THE US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC
SANCTIONS BREAK, IN A SERIOUS MANNER, THE NATURE AND
ESSENCE OF THE OAS." RIGHT WING PARTY LEADER MARIO
SANDOVAL SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT REAGAN COMPLAINING
OF THE DEPARTMENT'S "INCREDIBLY STUPID POLICY." JUNTA
MEMBER MALDONADO SCHAAD TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HE THOUGHT
THAT THE USG SHOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL IN WHAT HE SAW AS
A CONFLICT BETWEEN OUR NATO AND OAS COMMITMENTS, THAT
THE USG HAD EXHIBITED "GOOD INTENTIONS" THROUGH SECRETARY
HAIG'S EFFORTS, BUT THAT GUATEMALA WOULD SUPPORT ARGENTINA
COMPLETELY AND MIGHT CONSIDER SENDING A TOKEN MILITARY
CONTINGENT. OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE JUNTA IS UNDER
PRESSURE TO ADOPT A MORE RADICAL STAND.

-- MEXICO: THE GOM HAS CRITICIZED BOTH ARGENTINA AND
THE UK WHILE SUPPORTING ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE
ISLANDS. BUT ATTITUDES, WHILE STILL AMBIGUOUS, ARE
BEGINNING TO CHANGE WITH AN INCREASE IN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST"
SENTIMENT FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF THE BELGRANO AND
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US SUPPORT ORGANIZATION CREATED. FOREIGN MINISTER ZAMBRANO ISSUED
A PUBLIC STATEMENT APRIL 30 CLAIMING THAT THE US SHIFT:

- BREAKS DOWN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS;

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- COULD VERY LIKELY ENCOURAGE AGGRESSION;
- REFLECTS A BIASED POSITION.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOV IS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ANY NECESSARY CONSULTATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF "REORIENTING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN LINE WITH LATIN AMERICAN INTERESTS." PRESIDENT HERRERA TOLD REPORTERS MAY 3 THAT VENEZUELA WOULD STUDY IN EVERY INSTANCE, "EVERY TYPE OF REQUEST" ARGENTINA ASKS OF VENEZUELA. HE ALSO DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GOV HAS ALREADY SENT SPARE PARTS AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA.

HAIG

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