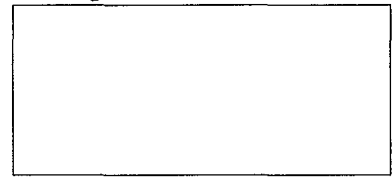




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

29 May 1982

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CPAS NIDC 82-126C

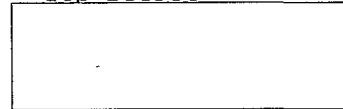
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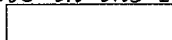
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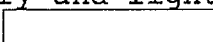
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UK-ARGENTINA: British Military Gains

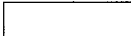
(Information as of 0030)

Success at Darwin and Goose Green will enhance British ability to move on Stanley. Argentina is working to increase its capabilities against ground, air and naval targets in the Falklands. No movement has been reported in negotiations. 


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//The British Ministry of Defense announced yesterday that its forces had captured Goose Green and Darwin, suffering only light casualties. The Argentine Joint Chiefs of Staff denied the claim. Press reports indicate that other units, supported by artillery and light tanks, are moving eastward toward Stanley.// 


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British Harrier aircraft continued raids on the Stanley area as well as support of ground operations. The Ministry of Defense confirmed the loss of a Harrier to Argentine ground fire on Thursday. 


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The Ministry of Defense confirmed Argentine air-strikes on the San Carlos beachhead, but gave no indication of damage. Casualties total four killed and 20 wounded. 

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Skies will be partly cloudy over the Falkland Islands today with good visibility. Tomorrow skies will be partly to mostly cloudy, with good visibility deteriorating by midday. Winds will be about 25 knots, and seas will be rough today and tomorrow. 

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Comment: //The British ground offensive has begun in earnest. The British needed to defeat the Argentine forces in the Darwin - Goose Green area before they could fully develop their main thrust toward Stanley. The seizure of Darwin and Goose Green removes the threat posed by Argentine forces there to the flank of the principal British thrust, provides an additional operating base for Harrier aircraft, and places British forces astride the main east-west route to Stanley. 

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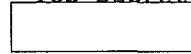
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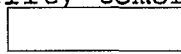
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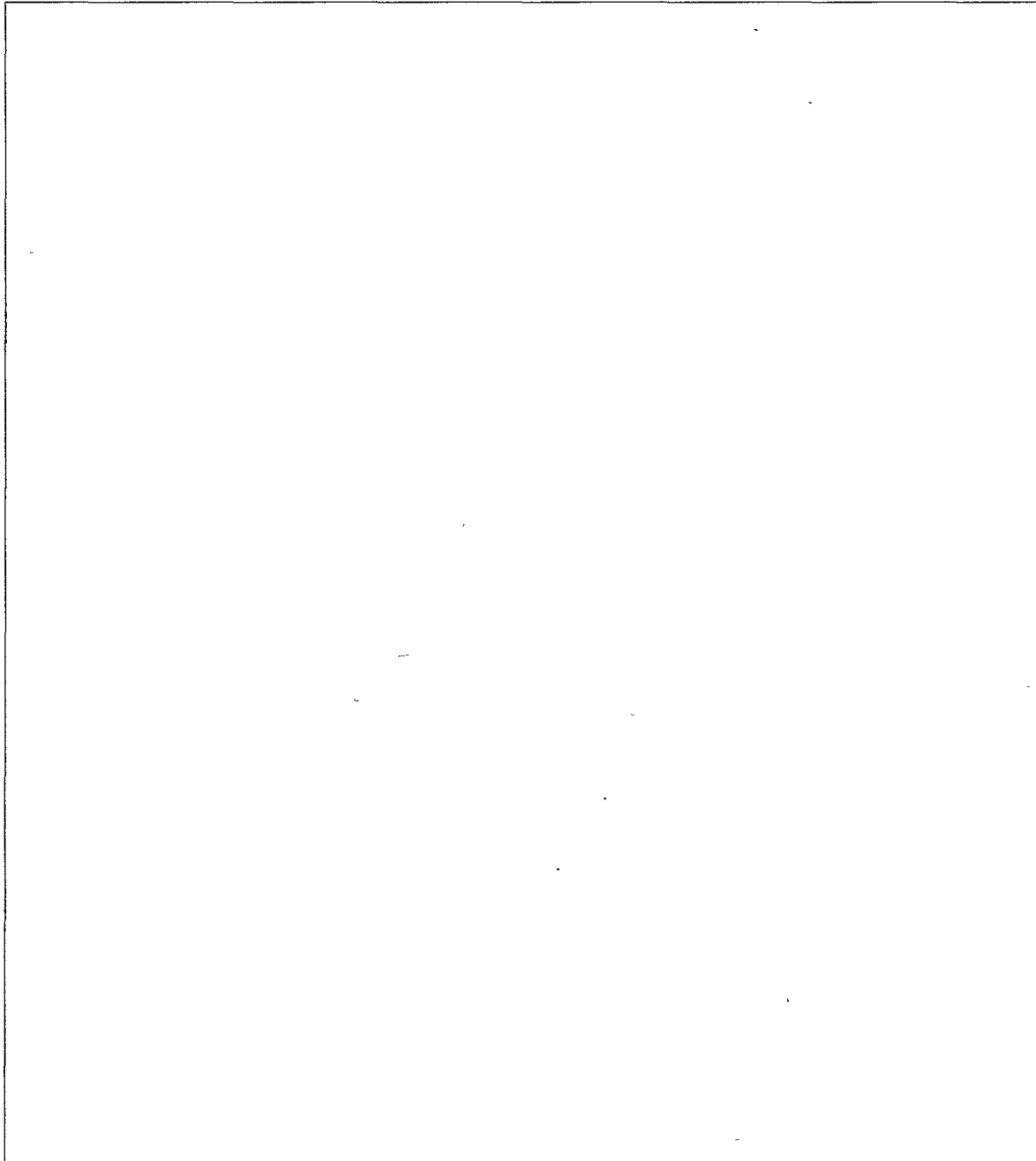
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//The weather over the next few days should not be a problem for ground forces, but the lack of extended periods of good visibility tomorrow and Monday should hamper air operations.//



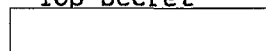
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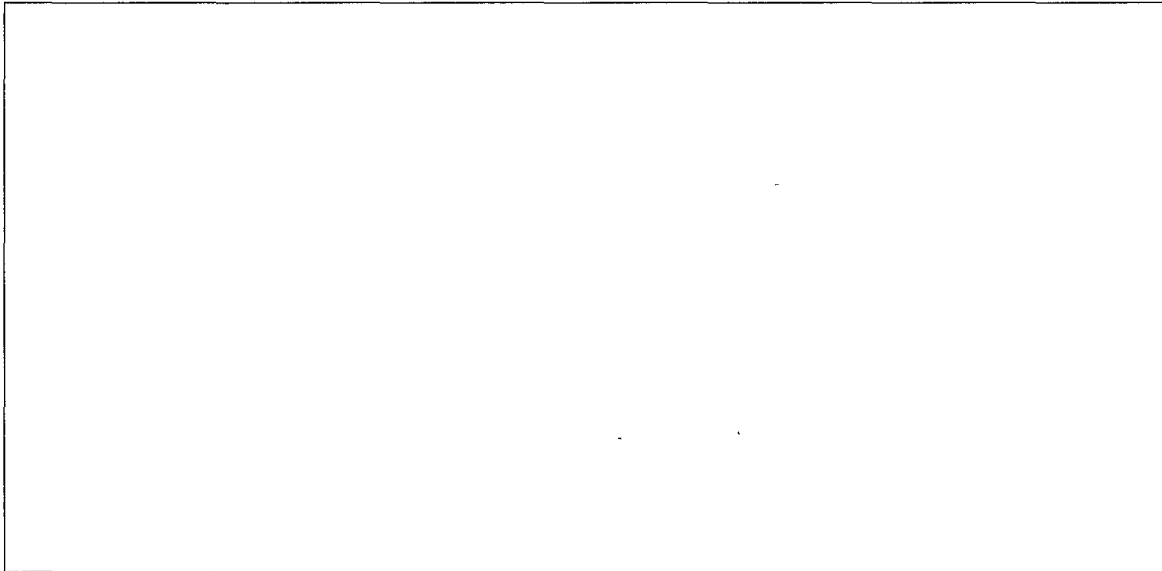
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OAS Resolution

Latin American Foreign Ministers meeting in emergency session in Washington are expected to approve an Argentine resolution calling on the US to stop assisting the UK. The resolution also condemns Britain's "Armed Aggression," invites OAS members to take "measures they deem appropriate" to assist Argentina, and calls on the US to lift sanctions imposed on Buenos Aires last month. Most Foreign Ministers, however, reportedly do not favor economic or diplomatic sanctions against the UK. [Redacted]

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Comment: //Argentina hopes that strong support from OAS members will neutralize EC support for the UK and put pressure on the US to intercede with London. Buenos Aires is likely to muster the required 14 votes to pass its resolution and could receive as many as 18, thereby underscoring growing US isolation in the OAS.// [Redacted]

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British Conservatives Riding High

//The Conservatives easily retained a parliamentary seat in a byelection on Thursday, with the margin greater than anticipated before the Falklands crisis. A new poll of 400 Britishers shows that if a national election were held now, the Conservatives would defeat Labor by a two-to-one margin. Eighty-four percent were satisfied with Prime Minister Thatcher's handling of the crisis, a substantial increase.// [Redacted]

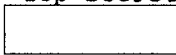
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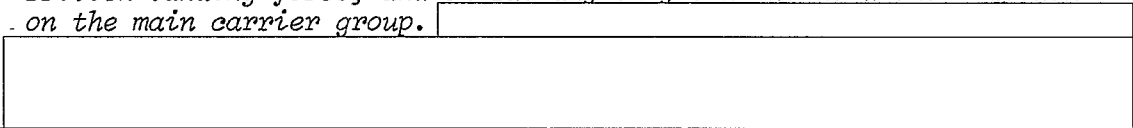


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SPECIAL ANALYSES

ARGENTINA: Air Strategy and Capabilities

//The Argentines have relied on their Air Force to engage the British landing force, and on Tuesday they concentrated their attack on the main carrier group.



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//With its Navy no match for the British, Buenos Aires has had little choice but to rely on its air arm to attack the landing force, associated combat and supply ships and Harrier aircraft. The British have responded by establishing two rings of warships armed with surface-to-air missiles around the landing ships unloading men and materiel at San Carlos.



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//During the first days of the landing, this defense proved fairly successful, but its effectiveness has been gradually reduced by the repeated air attacks. Two British warships have been sunk and several badly damaged since the landings began, but replacements--a cruiser, destroyer and five frigates--are arriving.



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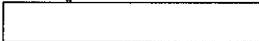
//On Tuesday Argentine aircraft attacked the main carrier group, rather than the British ships operating in Falkland Sound. Although they severely damaged a major supply ship, their primary mission evidently was to hit one of the carriers in order to achieve the spectacular success they need. Further attempts may focus on the carriers or--if aircraft can get within range--the Queen Elizabeth 2.



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[Redacted]

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//More air attacks also could be directed at British ground forces over the next several days, but, now that the British have deployed a large number of Rapier surface-to-air missiles, low-level attacks against the land forces will be even more risky. The Argentines probably will choose to concentrate airstrikes against the logistic ships supporting the invasion force.//

[Redacted]

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Capability To Sustain Air Operations

//At the beginning of the conflict the Argentines had some 120 firstline jets and 160 secondline combat aircraft. Thus far they have lost one-third of the firstline planes and 14 of the secondline.// (S NF)

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] Of the 75 to 80 jet combat aircraft still available, however, about half may be ready for combat on any given day. [Redacted]

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//Argentine Air Force and Navy pilots are well trained and have proved able to deliver ordnance accurately, but the attacks on British forces have taken their toll on the pilots as well as aircraft. They probably cannot sustain for much longer the high sortie rate of recent days.//

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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//The Argentines could begin to rely more heavily on their secondline aircraft but these are less capable and more vulnerable to enemy fire. They also may get replacement aircraft from some of their South American allies. Peru can provide spare parts for the Mirages, and specialists to help repair them. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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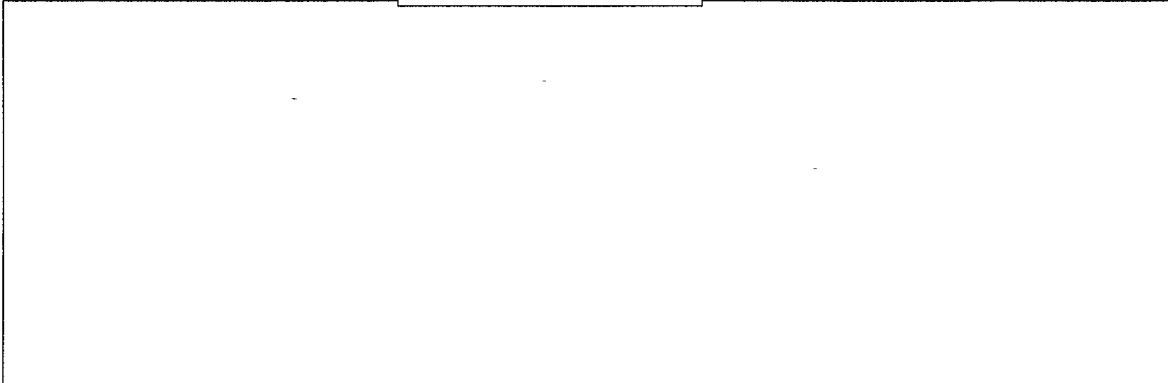
The Missile Factor

//If the Argentines are able to obtain additional air-to-surface Exocet missiles with a range of 50 to 75 kilometers, they might reduce the scale of aircraft attacks and concentrate on getting their Super Etendard aircraft in position to launch these missiles against british carriers.//



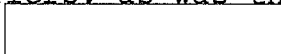
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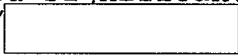
Status of the Harriers

//One major uncertainty is the current status of the UK's Harrier force. The British brought at least 40 Harriers with them and say they have lost only six. In recent days Argentine air losses have been attributed more often to ships and land-based surface-to-air missiles than to Harriers, as was the case at the start of the invasion.//



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//Many of the Harriers may have been committed to protecting the carriers rather than supporting the invasion at San Carlos. Alternatively, the British could have sustained significantly higher aircraft losses than they admit.//



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