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EO 12065: RDS-1 4/23/02 (SHLAUDEMAN, HARRY W.) OR-M
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, UK, FA, AR
SUBJECT: FALKLANDS DISPUTE: ATTITUDES IN THE MILITARY

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE SENSE OUR MILITARY PEOPLE ARE NOW GETTING FROM THEIR CONTACTS IN THE ARMY (WHO ARE BREAKING THEIR PREVIOUS SILENCE) IS ONE OF INCREASING SOLIDARITY AND A DEGREE OF COCKINESS ABOUT THE OUTCOME. THE FEELING AT THE MOMENT IN THAT QUARTER SEEMS TO BE THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE A GOOD HAND TO PLAY: A STRONG MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND WITH PLENTY OF FIRE POWER AND PROVISIONS; A QUESTIONABLE BRITISH CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE BLOCKADE FOR VERY LONG, LET ALONE LAND TROOPS; AND, IN GENERAL, A STRONG MILITARY ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF WEATHER, DISTANCE AND THE LIKE. THE CONCLUSION IS THAT GALTIERI MAY WELL PULL IT OFF, AND THUS THERE IS A RALLYING AROUND HIM. HIS VISIT TO "PUERTO ARGENTINO" YESTERDAY WITH THE EXHORTATION TO THE TROOPS TO FIGHT TO THE "LAST DROP OF BLOOD" LEAVES CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT ANY REAL CONSIDERATION IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO A MILITARY WITHDRAWAL.
SHLAUDEMAN

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