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 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN//INTAFF//
 USCINCLANT NORPOLK VA
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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[REDACTED] SANTIAGO 2558

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/29/88 (DURKEE, M L) OR-P
 TAGS: PORG, FBOR, AR, UK, CI
 SUBJECT: GOC EXPLAINS ABSENTION IN FALKLANDS VOTE AND DENIES
 LOANING TANKER TO UK

1. (U) THE CHILEAN MFA TOOK PAINS ON APRIL 28 TO EXPLAIN
 CHILE'S ABSTENTION IN THE TIAR ORGAN OF CONSULTATION VOTE ON
 THE FALKLANDS, IN A RELEASE OF THEIR DELEGATE'S WASHINGTON
 STATEMENT, REINFORCED WITH A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER
 ROJAS IN SANTIAGO.

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2. (U) MAIN POINTS MADE ARE: A) REASSERTION OF CHILEAN
 SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF
 DISPUTES; B) UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELY ACTION

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BY THE UN AND OAS, C) ASSERTING ARGENTINA'S RIGHT TO INVOKE THE TIAR IN ACCORD WITH THE 3RD CLAUSE OF ARTICLE 6 FOR A SITUATION THAT "THREATENS THE PEACE OF THE AMERICAS" AND D) THE MAIN POINT "... THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT... THIS CONSULTATIVE ORGAN SHOULD HAVE ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN ORDER NOT TO OBSTRUCT EITHER THE PROVISIONAL MEASURE ADOPTED, OR THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BASED ON THE EXISTING MECHANISMS." THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO SINGLED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT UNDERMINING THE US MEDIATION EFFORT.

3. (C) THE MFA WAS ALSO AT PAINS TO DENY PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT THE GOC HAD GIVEN THE UK PERMISSION TO USE THE FLEET OILER TIDEPOOL IN THE FALKLANDS OPERATION. THE MINISTRY DENIED THAT ANY SUCH PERMISSION HAD BEEN GIVEN, AND STATED THAT THE GOC LACKED ANY AUTHORITY WHATEVER ON A BRITISH SHIP. SIMILAR VIGOROUS DENIALS CAME FROM DEFENSE AND NAVY SPOKESMEN. FYI: AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY DAO SANTIAGO, THE TIDEPOOL WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO CHILE BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE CHILEAN NAVY WHEN IT RECEIVED ORDERS TO REVERSE COURSE AND HEAD NORTH. BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SALE AGREEMENT PROVIDED AN ESCAPE CLAUSE WHICH DID NOT REQUIRE GOC CONCURRENCE.

4. (C) COMMENT: THERE IS A BROAD CONSENSUS COVERING THE GOC, THE PRESS, AND MOST ORDINARY CHILEANS THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED ANY WAY IN ITS BELIEF THAT FORCE OF ARMS IS THE WAY TO RESOLVE TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. BUT THAT SAME CONSENSUS ALSO RECOGNIZES CHILE SHOULD NOT ACT

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IN SUCH FASHION AS TO INFLUENCE OR PROVOKE ARGENTINE HOSTILITY UNDER CURRENT TENSE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE CHILEAN ABSENTION IN THE TIAR VOTE IS PROBABLY AT THE MARGIN OF HOW FAR THE CHILEANS CAN GO, AND THE QUICK DENIALS ABOUT AGREEING TO LET THE UK USE THE OILER AND SIMILAR DENIALS ABOUT UK USE OF BASES IN THE FAR SOUTH ILLUSTRATE THE CAREFUL BALANCE THE GOC IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN. THEBERGE

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