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Moscow Says U.S. Is Seeking To Acquire Base in Falklands

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MOSCOW, April 15 — The Soviet Government's press agency Tass said today that an American proposal for joint administration of the Falkland Islands by Argentina, Britain and the United States was a ruse to establish an American foothold in the South Atlantic.

"According to observers, these pretensions to participating in the administration of the islands contradict logic, since they would add one colonial power to another," Tass said in a dispatch from Washington that appeared in Pravda, the Communist Party daily.

The dispatch followed other commentaries that have presented the American mediating effort as a smokescreen for promoting both Britain's efforts to re-establish its "colonial" position in the islands and American military interests in the region. Pravda described Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. earlier in the week as a "messenger for British neocolonialists."

The weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta placed his diplomacy in the context of a purported American bid to establish a

military bloc in the Southern Hemisphere, linking the United States with South Africa and various right-wing South American governments.

"Among the goals being pursued by the American Administration, there is mention of the idea of using the Falkland Islands in the future as a military base belonging to the United States and enabling it to control the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean," the newspapers said.

The Soviet press has played up reports that the United States has been assisting the British fleet heading for the Falkland Islands.

Tass said today that the United States' contention that it was an "even-handed broker" was deceptive since it was providing Britain with intelligence information about the Argentine armed forces, making satellites available for British naval communications and storing fuel at the United States base on Ascension Island for use by the British force. The base is leased from Britain, and the agreement provides for British use in times of need.

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