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PROGRAM CBS Morning News STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

DATE January 19, 1983 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT US Intelligence on the Falklands

DIANE SAWYER: CBS News has learned that Argentina may be planning a new attack against some British targets in the Falkland Islands.

Bill Lynch has the story.

BILL LYNCH: Six months after British forces recaptured the Falkland Islands, US intelligence reports say Argentina seems to be preparing a limited campaign of military harassment.

Argentina has been buying new fighter plane from France, Israel and Peru to replace its war losses and some of them have been deployed at Rio Gallegos, within striking range of the Falklands.

The Argentine Air Force now has more Mirage fighters than before the South Atlantic war and has doubled, from five to ten, the number of super-engine Darv [?] fighter bombers capable of firing Exocet anti-ship missiles.

Intelligence analysts do not expect any full-scale attacks on the British garrison, instead they say Argentina is making preparations for hit and run sabotage raids on military targets, perhaps carried out by small teams landing by submarine.

The reports also say the Argentine Air Force will be trying to shoot down any British helicopter or fighter that strays outside Britain's 200 exclusion zone around the Falklands.

The United States has urged the British to reopen talks

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with Argentina on the Islands' future, but last week's triumphant Falkland visit by Prime Minister Thatcher and recent bellicose statements by Argentine generals offer little hope for diplomacy.

The British, who paid a heavy price to reclaim the islands in June may now find defending them is also costly.

Bill Lynch, CBS News, the Pentagon.