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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

SATURDAY, 3 APRIL, 1982

Prime Minister:

Hallo, Monsieur President

President Mitterrand:

I am ringing to express my sympathy with you. I wouldn't wish you to think that France, as a very close friend and neighbour, was not absolutely with you in thought and freedom.

Prime Minister:

Monsieur President, I do appreciate your calling. It's very kind and thoughtful of you. We're in an acutely difficult position, and we've had a very difficult morning in Parliament. Thank you very much for your message. Above all, thank you for your support, and both I and the British people will appreciate this.

President Mitterrand:

Mrs. Thatcher, I want you to know that it isn't just I myself, but the French people who would want you to know - and the British people - how close we feel to you in this.

Prime Minister:

Thank you very much. We've been close before and I therefore very very much appreciate what you've said. Parliament is determined that we shall restore the Falkland Islands to British sovereignty, and I know that we'll have your support and the support of the French people in that.

President Mitterrand:

I want you to know that if there's anything we can do to help, we should like to. Of course, I quite realise that Britain is quite big enough to find its own solutions to this problem. But it's important that you should realise that others share your opposition to this kind of aggression.

Prime Minister:

Thank you very much. We all have need of friends at difficult

times and that's when we particularly appreciate them.

President Mitterrand:

Please accept my very best wishes and I hope that we can be in touch again if there's anything that we can usefully do.

Prime Minister:

Thank you very much. I hope that, too. And in any event, I hope that we will soon meet again.