

OPS

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 7138A/82

President of Sri Lanka

June 25, 1982.

My dear Prime Minister,

I have been closely following the recent events in the Falkland Islands and I am happy that armed conflict has now ended. I commend you for the patience and resolve that you exercised in the handling of this crisis.

On this issue, Sri Lanka, while committed to the principles of decolonization, at the same time firmly upholds two of the cardinal principles of the United Nations Charter and the Non-Aligned Movement, namely the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The communique that my Government issued in early April, when Argentina forcibly occupied the Falkland Islands, reflected this conviction.

At the Non-Aligned Co-ordinating Bureau Meetings in New York as well as at the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Co-ordinating Bureau in Havana, Sri Lanka endeavoured to have these principles given due consideration in the deliberations and embodied in the final documents.

As you would be aware, in the Havana Communique the paragraphs relating to the Falkland Islands were drafted by the Regional Group. My Foreign Minister, who participated in this Conference, had spoken to a number of his colleagues on the need for a fair assessment of the issues involved, but the draft produced for the Final Communique was, in its presentation, wanting in this regard and was therefore not acceptable to Sri Lanka.


The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
L o n d o n

Our disagreement with these paragraphs have been communicated in the form of a written reservation to the Cuban Mission in New York and to the Permanent Representatives of the Members of the Bureau, who participated in the Havana Conference. My Permanent Representative in New York will also communicate these reservations to the Permanent Representatives of all United Nations Missions in New York and to the Security Council, as soon as the Havana Communique itself is made available to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I hope that a permanent solution to this vexed question will be found in the near future, which will be acceptable to all the parties concerned.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,


J. R. Jayewardene