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Today's press reports remarks made by the Spanish Prime Minister on 2 May during an electoral visit to Southern Spain. Calvo Sotelo is reported to have said that Spain had offered herself to Argentina as a mediator in the Falklands crisis although he did not know whether it was not already too late for this offer.

Calvo Sotelo apparently described the situation in the South Atlantic as "very serious" and said that Spain considered herself affected by it. Spain rejected the use of force: but he claimed that Britain had negotiated "little and badly". He added that Spain had a clearer claim to Gibraltar than had Argentina to the Falklands.

It is not clear whether the Spanish Prime Minister's remarks have been accurately reported. We are trying to get the text. Further assessment follows.

Summary of other press coverage on Falklands follows on separate telegram.

PARSONS