

OPS

OUT TELEGRAM

Subject filed on Argentina Relations, P420

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby

FLASH

ZCZC  
GRS  
CLASS  
CAVEATS  
DESKBY  
FM FCO  
PRE/ADD  
TEL NO

1 ZCZC  
2 GRS  
3 CONFIDENTIAL  
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6 FM FCO      MAY 82  
7 TO FLASH MEXICO CITY  
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 1149/82**

9 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK  
10 YOUR TELNO 432: FALKLANDS: MESSAGE TO LOPEZ PORTILLO  
11 1. Please deliver following message to President Lopez Portillo  
12 from the Prime Minister.  
13 Begins.  
14 Your Ambassador in London has told the Foreign and Commonwealth  
15 Secretary of your continuing deep concern about the situation in  
16 the Falklands.  
17 I entirely share Your Excellency's concern. Throughout the past  
18 seven weeks I have greatly appreciated the constructive  
19 contributions which you personally and your Government have made  
20 in order to resolve this tragic crisis. It is a matter of the  
21 deepest disappointment to me that <sup>all our</sup> ~~the~~ efforts which we have all  
22 ~~made~~ have come to nothing because of Argentine obduracy.  
23 As you, Mr President, will be fully aware, the conflict which is  
24 taking place has not been of our <sup>making</sup> ~~seeking~~. It was the Argentine  
25 forces' unprovoked invasion of the Falkland Islands ~~nearly eight~~

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NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword  weeks which
File number	Dept CMU	Distribution  FALKLANDS GENERAL	
Drafted by (Block capitals) P R Fearn			
Telephone number 233 4692			
Authorised for despatch  J. Holmes 26/5			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		


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2 ~~weeks ago~~ which ~~has~~ brought about the present situation. Despite  
3 all the attempts by the international community, for which we are  
4 most grateful, Argentina has stubbornly refused to withdraw from  
5 the Islands, end her aggression and bring peace to the region. <sup>she</sup>  
6 <sup>has</sup> disregarded ~~the~~ the clear expression of ~~the~~ international will  
7 contained in Security Council Resolution 502. <sup>confrontation</sup> ~~The problem~~ could  
8 have been <sup>avoided</sup> ~~resolved~~ at any time through a withdrawal of Argentine  
9 forces.  
10 It is not Britain's wish or practice to use force to end disputes:  
11 but when an aggressor refuses to heed attempts to achieve  
12 peaceful solutions, we are obliged to act in defence of our <sup>rights and</sup>  
13 interests, as provided for in Article 51 of the UN Charter. In  
14 doing so, we are defending not only the rights of the Falkland  
15 Islanders: we are showing to the world that aggression cannot be  
16 allowed to succeed.  
17 We are conscious that the Argentine Government has been attempting  
18 to suggest that British action on the Falklands somehow involves  
19 Latin America as a whole. This is not the case. Our dispute is  
20 with the Argentine Military <sup>Government.</sup> ~~Government.~~ It is not with the  
21 Argentine people and certainly not with the other countries of  
22 the region. We recognise the very important role which the  
23 countries of Latin America play in the international community and  
24 value very highly our relations with them. We wish to preserve  
25 and strengthen them. It is in all our interests that Argentine  
26 attempts to widen the scope of the dispute should not be allowed  
27 to succeed. I hope that it will not be forgotten at the planned  
28 meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of American  
29 States that it was Argentina who committed the aggression and  
30 Britain who was the victim.  
31 With warm personal good wishes.  
32 Ends.  
33 2. In delivering this message, you should also draw as  
34

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appropriate on the points in my telno 68 to Asuncion.  
PYM  
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