

SAVING TELEGRAM

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BY BAG

FROM OTTAWA

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELNO. 7 SAVING

4 MAY 1982

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ADDRESSED TO FCO TELEGRAM NO. SAVING of 4 MAY 1982

REPEATED SAVING TO CHANCERY, WASHINGTON  
UKMIS NEW YORK  
UKDEL NATO

FALKLAND ISLANDS

In the House of Commons on 28 April, the Prime Minister was asked whether the Canadian Government recognised the UK as having sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The question was answered by Mr MacGuigan, who said:

"Madam Speaker, the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands is not for Canada to decide; it is a matter to be decided either by an international tribunal, whether it be an arbitration tribunal or the International Court of Justice, or by negotiation between the parties.

What is of great concern to Canada and to other peace abiding countries is that Argentina has chosen to try to settle a dispute over territory by recourse to force of arms and that the United Kingdom has had to have recourse to self-defence in order to regain those islands. That is the position that Canada has taken. It is in pursuance of that position that we have banned the export of war material to Argentina and that we have, like the members of the Common Market, imposed similar kinds of restrictions with respect to the entry of Argentinian imports to Canada".

In reply to a supplementary, he said:

"We have taken similar actions to those taken by members of the European Community with respect to Argentina. We are giving the identical kind of support to the United Kingdom that our other friends are giving, and more than some countries in the world are doing".

2. When I saw Mr Taylor, Deputy Under Secretary at the Department for External Affairs on 30 April, I asked him what Canada's position on the sovereignty of the Islands was. He said that the Department were not in doubt about our sovereignty which had,

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according to the Department's Legal Advisers, been implicitly recognised by the Canadian Government's condemnation of the Argentine invasion.

3. I took the opportunity of saying that the House of Commons in London had been remarkably united in their debate on 29 April.

4. I took occasion to thank the Canadians for the helpful remarks made by their Ambassador on his return to Buenos Aires (my telno. 340).

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