

ee Malvinas + T 110/82  
Argentina: Relations Pt 18  
EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA



OPS

Prime Minister

The FCO will supply  
a draft reply on Monday

MF

Steve Gray  
Duty Clerk  
22/5/82

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Bogotá, 21st May 1982.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
London

Dear Prime Minister,

Your Government is well aware of the position that the Colombian Government has adopted in the conflict between your country and Argentina on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. We did not agree to the convocation of the Organ of Consultation as we felt that before trying to apply the measures provided for in the TIAR (Interamerican Treaty for Reciprocal Assistance) it was absolutely essential to exhaust every political, juridical and diplomatic resource in order to avoid a war of unforeseeable consequences, not only because of the number of innocent victims that would be sacrificed in an armed confrontation, but also because of the very serious tensions that would arise between your country and Latin America, a continent that shares the defence of the worldwide democratic system with the United Kingdom.

I know that the first military clashes between the Argentines and the British have already taken place, and I regard the escalation of the war and its fatal consequences with horror. My Government believes that democratic nations have the obligation of strengthening the system against the risks threatening it and, in our opinion, this aim is not achieved by weakening ourselves in unproductive wars involving

..//.



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

.2.

a lot of bloodshed, but rather through endowing ourselves with the necessary patience to persevere in dialogues until it is possible to find suitable meeting points which would restore the world's confidence in the elimination of the dangers of a new conflagration.

There are many formulas that could be useful, if not to resolve the whole problem from the outset, at least to make progress in new diplomatic contacts which would allow peaceful solutions to be worked towards.

I am aware that the President of Perú has sent your Government and the Argentine one a proposal which could lead to more advanced talks. This proposal or any other which might drive away the danger of war is obviously of interest to us as democrats. The Colombian Government that has always maintained a position of respect to its own juridical tradition believes that your Government will well understand the concern prompting Colombia to find peaceful solutions that would avoid the escalation of the already very dangerous conflict between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

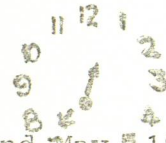
From now on we offer the Colombian Government's assistance for the achievement of a peace formula which would be in the best interests of both Great Britain and Argentina, countries to which we feel linked by old and strong ties.

Yours sincerely,

JULIO CESAR TURBAY-AYALA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA "



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA 22 MAY 1982



London, 22nd May, 1982

Sir Antony Acland, KCVO, CMG  
Permanent Under-Secretary of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London, S.W.1

*Dear Sir Antony*

Acting on the instructions of the President of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Julio César Turbay-Ayala, I am sending you the Spanish text as well as an informal English translation of the message that he has addressed to the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP, Prime Minister.

I would be very grateful if you could forward the above mentioned message to the Prime Minister at your earliest convenience.

*Yours sincerely*

*Julio Turbay*  
Andrés Restrepo Londoño  
Ambassador.

Encl.



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

C O P Y  
-----

"BOGOTA, 21 DE MAYO DE 1982

SEÑORA MARGARET THATCHER  
PRIMER MINISTRO DEL REINO UNIDO  
LONDRES.

APRECIADA PRIMER MINISTRO:

CONOCE BIEN VUESTRO GOBIERNO CUAL HA SIDO LA POSICION QUE EL GOBIERNO COLOMBIANO HA ADOPTADO EN EL CONFLICTO ENTRE VUESTRA PATRIA Y LA ARGENTINA ALREDEDOR DE LA SOBERANIA DE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS. NO FUIMOS PARTIDARIOS DE LA CONVOCATORIA DEL ORGANO DE CONSULTA POR CONSIDERAR QUE ANTES QUE INTENTAR APLICAR LAS MEDIDAS PREVISTAS EN EL TIAR RESULTABA ABSOLUTAMENTE INDISPENSABLE AGOTAR TODOS LOS RECURSOS POLITICOS, JURIDICOS Y DIPLOMATICOS PARA EVITAR UNA GUERRA DE IMPREVISIBLES CONSECUENCIAS NO SOLO POR EL NUMERO DE VICTIMAS INOCENTES SACRIFICADAS EN LA CONFRONTACION ARMADA, SINO POR LAS GRAVES TENSIONES QUE SE PRESENTARIAN ENTRE VUESTRO PAIS Y LATINOAMERICA QUE COMPARTE A ESCALA UNIVERSAL CON EL REINO UNIDO LA DEFENSA DEL SISTEMA DEMOCRATICO.

SE QUE YA SE HAN PRODUCIDO LOS PRIMEROS ENCUENTROS MILITARES ENTRE ARGENTINOS Y BRITANICOS Y CONTEMPO CON HORROR LA EXTENSION DE LA GUERRA Y SUS FATALES CONSECUENCIAS. PIENSA MI GOBIERNO QUE LAS NACIONES DEMOCRATICAS TIENEN LA OBLIGACION DE FORTALECER EL SISTEMA CONTRA LOS RIESGOS QUE LO AMENAZAN Y DICHA FINALIDAD NO SE LOGRA A NUESTRO JUICIO DEBILITANDONOS EN GUERRAS CRUENTAS Y ESTERILES, SINO REVISTIENDONOS DE LA PACIENCIA NECESARIA PARA DIALOGAR HASTA ENCONTRAR UN PUNTO DE APROXIMACION QUE LE DEVUELVA AL MUNDO LA CONFIANZA EN LA ELIMINACION DE LOS PELIGROS DE UNA NUEVA CONFLAGACION.

SON MUCHAS LAS FORMULAS QUE PODRIAN SERVIR SI NO PARA RESOLVER DESDE EL PRINCIPIO LA TOTALIDAD DEL PROBLEMA, POR LO MENOS PARA AVANZAR EN NUEVOS CONTACTOS DIPLOMATICOS QUE PERMITAN TRABAJAR SOBRE EL CAMINO DE LAS SOLUCIONES PACIFICAS.

ESTOY ENTERADO DE QUE EL PRESIDENTE DEL PERU HA ENVIADO A VUESTRO GOBIERNO Y AL DE LA ARGENTINA UNA PROPUESTA QUE PODRIA DAR PIE A MAS AVANZADAS CONVERSACIONES. ESA FORMULA U OTRA CUALQUIERA QUE HAGA POSIBLE EL ALEJAMIENTO DEL PELIGRO DE LA GUERRA, OBIVIAMENTE ESTIMULA NUESTRO INTERES DE DEMOCRATAS. EL GOBIERNO

/ ...



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

- 2 -

COLOMBIANO QUE HA OBSERVADO UNA POSICION DE RESPETO A SU TRADICION JURIDICA CREE QUE EL VUESTRO ENTENDERA MUY BIEN LA PREOCUPACION QUE A COLOMBIA LE ASISTE PARA ENCONTRAR SOLUCIONES PACIFICAS QUE EVITEN QUE SE AGRAVE EL YA BIEN PELIGROSO CONFLICTO ENTRE EL REINO UNIDO Y LA ARGENTINA.

DESDE AHORA OFRECEMOS LA COADYUVANCIA DEL GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA PARA LA FORMULA DE PAZ QUE MEJOR SE ACOMODE A LOS INTERESES DE LA GRAN BRETAÑA Y DE LA ARGENTINA, PAISES A LOS CUALES NOS SENTIMOS UNIDOS POR VIEJOS Y FUERTES VINCULOS.

ME SUSCRIBO COMO VUESTRO CORDIAL AMIGO,

JULIO CESAR TURBAY-AYALA  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA."