

OPS
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T121A/82

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TO IMMEDIATE QUITO
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FALKLANDS : MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HURTADO

1. PRESIDENT HURTADO HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE
PRIME MINISTER (RECEIVED ON 4 JUNE):-
BEGINS

'THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR VIEW WITH THE GREATEST
ANXIETY THE DETERIORATION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH
ATLANTIC, WHICH HAS ALREADY PRODUCED SO MANY VICTIMS AND
CAUSED SO MUCH GRIEF TO THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT.
FACED WITH THE IMMINENT PROSPECT THAT THE HOSTILITIES WILL
PRECIPITATE ACTIONS, THE MAGNITUDE AND CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH
ARE UNFORESEEABLE, I PUT FORWARD THE MOST EARNEST CALL, IN
THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR FOR AN
IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND THE SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES WITHOUT
DELAY, IN ACCORD WITH THE HAPPY INITIATIVE PRESENTED BY
SPAIN AND PANAMA IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. IN MAKING
THIS IMPASSIONED PLEA, I INVOKE THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES
ON WHICH OUR CIVILISATION PRIDES ITSELF, AND TO WHOSE
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING BOTH ARGENTINA AND GREAT
BRITAIN HAVE MADE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS.'

ENDS

2. PLEASE NOW DELIVER FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:
BEGINS

'I SHARE THE DEEP CONCERN WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED ON
BEHALF OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT THE CONFLICT ON THE

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FALKLAND ISLANDS. AS I AM SURE YOU RECOGNISE, THAT CONFLICT IS NOT OF OUR SEEKING. OVER NINE WEEKS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE UNPROVOKED ARGENTINE INVASION OF BRITISH TERRITORY, YET THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAVE REFUSED TO HEED THE DEMANDS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO 502, ADOPTED THE DAY AFTER THE INVASION, AND WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES.

WE HAVE SHOWN FLEXIBILITY AND PATIENCE: BUT HAVE MET ONLY INTRANSIGENCE FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE NEVER WANTED TO RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION: BUT ARGENTINE OB DURACY HAS LEFT US NO CHOICE. WE HAVE AT EVERY STAGE OF THE CONFLICT STATED OUR POSITION CLEARLY, AND HAVE CONFINED OURSELVES TO USING THE MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF THE ISLANDERS AND TO PROTECT OUR WON FORCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR RIGHTS OF SELF-DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER.

MR PRESIDENT, A CEASEFIRE MUST BE UNEQUIVOCALLY LINKED TO IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I HOPE THAT REASON AND HUMANITY MAY YET PREVAIL ON THE ARGENTINE LEADERSHIP AND INDUCE THEM TO ACCEPT THE OFFERS OF A SAFE WITHDRAWAL WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE TO THEM. THE CHOICE IS THEIRS'.

ENDS

PYM

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