

OPS

OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE · PALL MALL · LONDON SW1Y 5HX

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T62c/82

5 April 1982

cc Marks
Sub: Rel. with Argentina
PT 3.

The Private Secretary,

The Secretary-General, who is presently in Trinidad, has asked me to convey the following message to the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP. The Secretary-General would appreciate it if this could be placed before the Prime Minister at the earliest possible opportunity.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Robinson

Mark Robinson,
Assistant Director,
Secretary-General's Office.

The Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE
PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, MP.

5 April 1982

Begins

On Saturday morning I left London for a long scheduled visit to the Caribbean even as the House of Commons was discussing the Falkland Islands' situation. I want to let you know directly how much I share your condemnation of Argentina's reprehensible conduct in this matter. Peter Carrington will have told you that as soon as I heard of the invasion on Friday I sent messages to all Commonwealth Heads of Government, a copy of which I attach, and to their Permanent Representatives in New York calling on them to stand by Britain in this matter and to join in the international condemnation of Argentina. I am particularly anxious that Caribbean Governments, as part of the Latin American Community, should do so and I spoke personally with some of the Prime Ministers on Friday afternoon from London. I am following this up while I am in the region and I stand ready to act in any way that may be considered useful and desirable.

We have already had in our time too many acts of aggression by those who calculate on getting away with it in a world devoid of any real elements of collective security. Argentina's action requires from the whole international community a stand for the maintenance of law and order world-wide. I am sure this is what your Commonwealth colleagues will see it. I shall certainly do all in my power to so encourage them so that their friendship and support might be a strength to you at this time.

In the days ahead please be mindful of my own readiness to do whatever I can to help.

With deep respect,

Sonny Ramphal

Ends

Text of Secretary-General's Message to Commonwealth
Heads of Government

BEGINS

You will be aware of the very dangerous situation that has resulted from Argentina's military invasion of the Falkland Islands in pursuit of its sovereignty claim. It is deeply disquieting that, despite a personal appeal for restraint by both the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Argentina rejected all attempts to persuade it to seek a diplomatic solution to its dispute with Britain. I am sure you will agree that, in the face of such unprovoked aggression, there is need for Commonwealth countries to stand by Britain in this matter, consistent with your support for the principles of territorial integrity, the right of self-determination, and the rejection of the use of force to unsettle long-established boundaries - principles for which the Commonwealth has consistently stood. I hope you will find it possible in whatever way you consider appropriate to make clear your condemnation of this Argentine action and to use all your influence to ensure a de-escalation of the matter.

Shridath Ramphal
Commonwealth Secretary-General

ENDS