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OPS

TEXT

cc NAOs
Argentina: Relations
with PT10

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I have been following with serious concern - as I mentioned in my letter of April 12th - the developments in and around the Falkland Islands and earnestly hoping for an early and peaceful solution of the dispute, ever since the Argentine military action.

In pursuance of its national policy of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, Japan deeply regrets the Argentine use of force and considers that their forces should withdraw promptly in accordance with Resolution 502 of the United Nations Security Council. In line with this position, my Government has continued to make approaches to the Argentine side. Our actions, as mentioned in my previous letter and repeatedly expressed as our official views, are based on the consideration, inter alia, that they should be compatible with our existing international obligations - including those under the United Nations' Charter - while ensuring the long-term interests of the Free World with due attention to unity and cooperation with the Western industrialised countries.

From this point of view, my Government intends to guide the business circles to pay due attention not to unduly take advantage of the measures to ban imports from Argentina taken by the EC members and other countries for the benefit of economic interests of Japan. I believe that it not only conforms to Japan's basic position, but also meets your requests.

With respect to the supply of official credit, I should like to state that no application for new commitment to export credit to Argentina is expected for the time being, in view of the tense situation now prevailing.

/ Japan ...

Japan has placed strong hopes in the good offices of Secretary of State Haig since April 6th and highly appreciates your country's positive response to his efforts. During the recent visit to Japan of Vice-President Bush of the United States, my Minister for Foreign Affairs explained our position and urgently requested that the United States should continue to exert its utmost efforts to secure a peaceful solution of this dispute.

I am deeply concerned that the position brought about by Argentina's use of force should not escalate into a large-scale military clash, bringing with it incalculable loss for all Western nations. May I therefore reiterate my earnest hope that the United Kingdom will find itself able to cope with this most difficult situation through peaceful settlement, in the overall interests of the Free World and to meet the desires of people everywhere. I am confident that the way to a peaceful solution will be opened by your wisdom and resolute decision.

In view of Japan's position as a member of the Security Council, my Government intends for its part to continue its own efforts - both inside and outside the United Nations - to prevent the escalation of the dispute and work for a peaceful settlement.

Please understand, my dear Prime Minister, that I am trying to convey to you the thoughts in my mind at this anxious time, with best wishes for your success in discharging your important duties in fulfilment of the British people's trust.

Yours sincerely,

ZENKO SUZUKI
Prime Minister
of Japan