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No. 050



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INDEX	PA	Action Taken
Your reference		

J R Young Esq
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FCO

Our reference
Date

6 April 1982

14/3

John Rob.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Would you please refer to our telegram 151 reporting Michael Simpson Orlebar's call yesterday on Bottai. I enclose the text of Colombo's statement to the Corriere della Sera on 4 April. This, so far as I know, is the only public statement to date by the Italian government on the Falklands crisis. Can I leave it to you to copy to those concerned?

Yours ever

T L Richardson

Whatever the reasons invoked by Argentina, Italy can only deplore the intervention of its armed forces in the Falklands. In renewing the UN Security Council's call for negotiations, the Italian government stands by the position of the Ten which invited Argentina to withdraw its forces, to abstain from the use of force and to pursue the search for a diplomatic solution of the dispute between Argentina and Great Britain.

In reaffirming our point of view, we have underlined to the Argentine government that it stems from an appreciation of the situation that, while taking into account the very friendly traditional relations that link our two peoples, cannot exempt them from the constraints of international law, nor from concern for the consequences that a deep deterioration in relations between these two important countries, both friends of Italy, may have for stability and peace, even in a much wider context.