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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 April 1982

Prime Minister

Agree to despatch a
message on these lines?

M 7/4

Yes not

Dear John,

Falkland Islands: Messages to Other Governments

HM Ambassador in Mexico City has asked to see President Lopez Portillo in the next day or two to press our case and has suggested that the Prime Minister should send a message to the President, which he thinks could make a considerable impression. We agree. The Mexicans are very important in the balance of South American opinion. I enclose a draft message based largely on a proposal by the Ambassador.

Yours ever,
Francis Richard
for (J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Registry
No.

DRAFT MESSAGE

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

To:—

From

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO
OF MEXICO

I wanted to be in touch with you at a difficult and dangerous moment in world affairs. I do so conscious of the friendship and understanding we established between us when I visited Mexico last year.

Through an act of aggression against virtually undefended islands hundreds and sometimes thousands of kilometres from their own shores, Argentine forces have outraged the principles on which the international order is based and on which my country, as yours, has built its foreign policy: in particular, self-determination of peoples and peaceful settlement of disputes. As you know the United Nations Security Council has since passed a Mandatory Resolution calling for Argentine withdrawal from the Falkland Islands. I very much regret that so far the Argentine Government has shown no sign of being willing to comply with this Resolution.

This challenge to the international order and rule of law affects all members of the world community, and I appeal for your help in bringing home to the Argentine Government the seriousness of its actions and the great dangers arising from its failure so far to respect the decisions of the Security Council for world peace. The greater the weight of international disapproval of Argentine aggression, the more likely a settlement of the dispute by peaceful means.

/As

As you know, the British Government has despatched substantial forces to the area. We hope it will not be necessary to use them. We are determined to pursue all peaceful means of settling the dispute. But failure to settle it by one means or another will make it increasingly difficult to prevent further acts of aggression by powerful countries against weaker or small neighbours.

I hope very much that we shall be able, through our Ambassadors, to remain in close touch through this unhappy period and to work closely together.

7 APR 1952



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